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Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Iraq

The UN inspection team stationed outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation withdrew to the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad on 22 July, INA reported. The head of the team said the decision to withdraw was due to "threats of physical pressure," adding that Iraqi Government "failed to ensure the safety of the Special Commission inspectors." A government spokesman denied the allegations, calling the claims "are absolutely unfounded," INA noted. Meanwhile, Baghdad's ambassador to Algeria dismissed a MENA report on rumors circulating in the Kuwaiti capital that Saddam Husayn had been assassinated by one of his guards, Algiers radio reported. The ambassador termed the rumors "untrue," adding that the Iraqi leader is in "good health."

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned from Cairo 22 July after talks with Egyptian President Mubarak, Jerusalem TV reported. According to an Israeli official, the visit was "excellent, a matter-of-fact visit which reflected understanding and a practical approach." According to DAVAR, the Egyptians "feel that a new atmosphere of trust between the two countries has been established." In another development, a "total ban on moving mobile homes into the territories, taking them beyond the Green Line, or even moving them from their current sites in the territories" has been issued by the Prime Minister's office, the Defense Ministry, and the Construction and Housing Ministry, DAVAR reported. The ban is to prevent any new settlements from being formed as well as to bar the expansion of existing ones, the paper noted. In other news, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks is scheduled to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders in Amman "to prepare for the reopening of the negotiations in Rome," YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed. According to the paper, the Palestinians "are not trying to conceal" their meeting with 'Arafat, and they "were not warned against" meeting with him or with other PLO members. In a related article, Jerusalem TV reported Police Minister Moshe Shahal as saying that the law banning meetings with PLO personnel "is unusual in the sphere of legislation in Israel and abroad, and its introduction was to be regretted," and added that the law "needs to be amended."

Jordan

King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a closed meeting on 21 July, Amman radio revealed. They exchanged views on the peace process and evaluated the latest Middle East developments and their implications. Following official talks they later held a joint press conference, broadcast on Amman TV, in which Husayn noted that the "talks went extremely well," and that they were "on the verge of a genuine, renewed effort to see progress towards peace." Baker asserted that there "are opportunities now that should be taken advantage of" and that he was pleased "to spend the time that we've spent today discussing the status of the peace process and how we might move it forward in a positive direction."

Egypt

Secretary of State Baker arrived in Cairo for talks with President Mubarak, MENA reported. Mubarak and Baker later held a round of bilateral talks, according to the press agency.

Iran

Secretary of State Baker's Middle East trip is "an exercise in futility" and appears to be an attempt by President Bush "to improve his image among the Jewish electorate," according to IRNA. Citing the daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, the press agency said the Israeli prime minister's appearance in Cairo was meant to solicit Egyptian assistance in "softening the Syrian and Palestinian positions" in the peace talks. In other news, the remains of 51 Iraqis who died in the Iran-Iraq war were traded at the Khosravi border in western Iran for the bodies of 50

Iranian soldiers, IRNA disclosed. Meanwhile Iranian and Iraqi authorities agreed to dispatch teams to retrieve and repatriate the remaining bodies of those killed during the 1980-88 war, the press agency added.

Afghanistan

A cease-fire has been declared and the situation is returning to normal after three days of fighting between rival groups Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami in Kabul, Tehran radio reported. The three days of street battles left an estimated 70 people dead and hundreds injured, AFP added.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi Assesses Meeting With Baker

TA2107160792 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 21 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir in Jerusalem "following the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state" on 20 July]

[Text] [Abu-'Akir] How do you assess the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?
['Abd-al-Shafi] It was an exploratory meeting to probe the U.S. position in the wake of the change that has occurred in Israel, namely, the Rabin government's assumption of power. We sensed that the United States is pleased with the Rabin government's plan. Hence, the Palestinian side was urged to take a new approach with the Israeli side. Our opinion was that the Israeli position should be explored further, particularly at the negotiating table.

[Abu-'Akir] Press reports indicated that Baker came to the region carrying new proposals. Did he raise with you some of those proposals?
['Abd-al-Shafi] Baker believes that it is possible to put forward strong positions regarding the powers and authorities of the Palestinians during self-rule and that objectives cannot be achieved by adopting intransigent positions. He believes that if we deal with the concept of self-rule and if we persist in our demand for real powers for self-rule authority, these will be positive positions that might meet with success and might push the negotiating process forward. This is his view, but as far as we are concerned, we still believe that land and settlement activity are the cornerstone of this matter, and we can neither ignore nor disregard this issue. We are still evaluating the new Israeli position.

[Abu-'Akir] Can it be said, then, that Baker raised new ideas during your meeting?
['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot say that they are new ideas, rather ideas that Baker raised several times during our previous meetings with him.

[Abu-'Akir] During the meeting you presented the Palestinian concept for the interim period. Did Baker have a specific position on this issue?
['Abd-al-Shafi] The interim period is exactly as was agreed on in the peace process—a period in which self-rule with powers is to be implemented. He urged the Palestinian side to demand strong powers during this period.

[Abu-'Akir] So, Baker is insisting on powers for the Palestinians during self-rule?
['Abd-al-Shafi] Baker said that we should not get stalled on the issue of settlements, rather we should try to obtain a strong self-rule with powers.

[Abu-'Akir] What about legislative elections? What is Baker's position on them?
['Abd-al-Shafi] Baker's position was this: Legislative elections for a legislative assembly are held within the framework of an independent state. He believes that elections should be held for a transitional governing body.

[Abu-'Akir] Was a time frame set for these elections?
['Abd-al-Shafi] This depends on what we achieve during the negotiations. He expressed the hope that things will move forward rapidly, enabling us to realize this by the end of October.

[Abu-'Akir] What about the loan guarantees to Israel? Did you reach any specific conclusion in this regard during the meeting with Baker?
['Abd-al-Shafi] We did not reach any specific conclusion, which will be one of the fundamental issues that will be discussed between Baker and Rabin. For our part, we said during the meeting that any softness in the U.S. position regarding the question of loans will have a negative impact on the negotiating process. We presented this position frankly.

PLO on Rabin's Settlement-Building Policy

Fatah Envoy Urges Halt

NC2107142392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, told MENA today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin must stop settlement activities and all types of settlement-building. Al-Qidrah called on Rabin to create the right security, political, and social atmosphere for the international community and the cosponsors of the peace conference to meet their obligation to protect the Palestinian people and to provide international supervision for the Palestinian legislative election.

Al-Qidrah called on Rabin to abandon the iron fist policy immediately, to release the Palestinian detainees, and to close the detention camps to pave the way for the Palestinians to achieve their national independence.

The Israeli elections, al-Qidrah states, proved that the Israelis opt for peace and reject intransigence and fanaticism. The Israelis want security, but the latter can only be achieved by establishing peace on a foundation of justice for all the region's nations.

The Fatah representative said Yitzhaq Rabin is still playing with words, inventing terms, and introducing classifications to justify Israel's settlement programs, al-Qidrah stated.

The road to peace is clear, al-Qidrah said. Peace, he pointed out, can be achieved through the land-for-peace principle and by implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, meaning, he added, that Israel

should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, primarily Jerusalem, and recognize the national political rights of the Palestinian people. Security should be guaranteed for everyone living in the region, al-Qidrah concluded.

Partial Freeze 'Insufficient Step'

NC2107180192 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, July 21 (AFP)—The PLO leadership on Tuesday renewed a call for a halt to all settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, including Jerusalem, as a precondition for Middle East peace, a senior spokesman said here.

The reaffirmation of the PLO position came after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Jerusalem that he saw promising signs of movement in the Israeli position, which last week froze 3,000 unsigned contracts and announced a review on 14,000 others.

Baker is on a regional tour of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to revive the Middle East peace process.

Information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AFP that an offer by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to impose a partial freeze, affecting settlements not vital to Israeli security, was an "insufficient step."

The PLO leadership has been meeting here since late Monday to discuss the impact of the new Israeli Labour-led coalition on the Middle East peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh said Rabin's offer was a "manoeuvre and a ruse" because it would allow Israel "to pursue settlements at least across half of the occupied Palestinian territories."

The United States "must make bigger efforts to persuade the new Israeli government to impose a total halt on settlements and to respect the Geneva convention on the protection of the Palestinian populations in the occupied territories," he added.

He also described the reopening of discussion between the U.S. and Israel on lifting the ban on billions of dollars of loan guarantees to help house Jewish immigrants as "a big blow to the peace process."

The U.S. Administration froze the 10 billion dollars of loan guarantees because the previous hardline Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, refused to stop settlement activity.

The PLO meeting comes ahead of Friday's meeting in Damascus of the foreign ministers of Arab countries taking part in peace negotiations.

On Monday Baker said in Jerusalem he was looking for "new signals" from the Palestinians but was told by the Palestinian peace talks team that Israel must give concrete proof it wants a settlement if the Middle East peace process is really to take off.

The team also called on Washington to resume dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has been excluded from the peace process at Israel' request, and for Arab-Israeli peace talks in August.

The PLO instructs a Palestinian delegation at the talks with Israel.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is chairing the meeting here attended by members of its decision-making executive committee and senior officials of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile.

Leaders of different groups that operate under the PLO umbrella are also taking part. The talks were to resume Tuesday evening.

Palestinian Leadership Holds Meeting in Tunis

Peace Process, Baker Visit Discussed

NC2107183292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0803 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said that the Palestinian leadership discussed at a meeting chaired by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat last night the Middle East peace process, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region, and the Israeli stand on the peace talks after the formation of a new Israeli Government led by Yitzhaq Rabin.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA Tunis correspondent, Subayh said that during yesterday's meeting, which continued until early this morning, the Palestinian leadership stressed the need to pursue the peace process seriously. He added that the Palestinian leadership asks the Israeli side to adopt clear political positions that confirm the agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy, and enabling the Palestinian people to assume authority in the occupied land under international supervision.

He said: We ask Israel to completely halt the settlement-building process, disarm Israeli citizens, and release Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli occupation jails.

He added that the Palestinian leadership also discussed the clashes that had taken place between Fatah and the Islamic Hamas Movement in the occupied Gaza Strip. The Palestinian leaders affirmed the need to end such disputes and to hold a comprehensive dialogue about such issues between the PLO and Hamas and emphasized the role of the unified Palestinian command inside the occupied territories and support for this command.

The PNC secretary said that the Palestinian leaders discussed inter-Arab relations and underlined the importance of the Damascus meeting of the cordon states, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, due to open on 24 July.

He noted that the Palestinian leadership affirmed its support for the efforts being exerted by several Arab leaders to clear the air, unify the fold, and enhance Arab solidarity ahead of the next phase of the peace talks.

He said that the Palestinian leaders denounced the Israeli siege of al-Najah University in Nabulus and the city itself and Israel's deportation of Palestinian students at a time when Rabin talks about peace.

The PNC secretary said the students' deportation from the occupied land was a harsh measure; that evicting citizens away from their families and homeland is a negative measure in the peace process; and that Israel should not resort to such arbitrary acts if it has a genuine desire for peace.

He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership will resume its meetings today.

Meetings Resume

LD2107141292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The Palestinian leadership resumed its meetings in Tunis today. An authoritative Palestinian source stated that the meeting is dealing particularly with the Rabin government's position on the peace process; Baker's tour in the region; settlements inside the occupied territories; the general internal situation; Israeli respect for the Geneva agreement; the recent al-Najah National University siege in Nabulus; and relations between factions of the Palestinian resistance.

PLO Executive Committee members, general secretaries of Palestinian factions, and the PNC chairmanship body are attending the leadership meetings, which began yesterday.

PLO's Qaddumi on Rabin, Egypt's Peace Role

NC2107112692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0813 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, asserted that the Palestinians are open to every positive development in the region but that we cannot say things are going well, which prompts us to be cautious.

Speaking to Cairo Voice of the Arabs Radio [not monitored by Nicosia Bureau] on the telephone from Tunis, he noted that Egypt, the largest Arab country, can play a role in finding a just peace. He said: We attach great importance to Egypt's role in the peace process. Yitzhaq Rabin ought to understand there can be no peace without withdrawal.

Commenting about Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statement on autonomy for the Palestinians, Qaddumi said Rabin should announce his intention to implement international legitimacy and Israel's readiness to withdraw.

Qaddumi said peace has its bases, foremost among which is fixing a date and arranging withdrawal. Failing that, we cannot advance, he said.

Referring to the Damascus meeting due to begin on Friday [24 July], he said the Arab parties concerned insist on a comprehensive, not partial or unilateral, solution. He added that general arrangements should be made and agreed upon for the peace process to succeed, thus Arab coordination is imperative.

Al-Husayni, 'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Prospects

AU2107100992 Vienna KURIER in German 21 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian team to the Middle East talks, and adviser Faysal al-Husayni, by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "'We Cannot Stop Intifadah, But We Can Stop the Throwing of Stones'"]

[Text] Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi heads the "Red Crescent," the Muslim sister organization of the Red Cross, in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Moreover, he leads the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. Faysal al-Husayni, a historian, is one of the most important advisers to the delegation but is not accepted as a negotiator by Israel because he is from East Jerusalem.

[Reporter] New Prime Minister Rabin would like to speed up autonomy talks and conclude them in six to nine months. Actually, you should be quite happy with the new Israeli Government.
[al-Husayni] So far we have only heard nice words about peace, but unfortunately, we have not seen any action yet. What we would like to see is an absolute stop to the taking of land in the occupied territories and of course, also an absolute stop to constructing Jewish settlements. In addition, and as a gesture of goodwill, we would also like to see the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons.

[Reporter] Would you stop the intifadah if Rabin were to make concessions?
[al-Husayni] That is impossible. The intifadah is the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination. Yet, what we can stop is the throwing of stones. We will respond to any step the Israelis take. Protest will of course continue but peacefully.

[Reporter] What do you think of Rabin's invitation to continue the negotiations in Jerusalem?
['Abd al-Shafi] We can negotiate in Jerusalem only once we are recognized as a people, once we can set up a delegation of our own, and once a discussion on the status of Jerusalem is also on the agenda.

Fatah Official on Relations With Gulf States

NC1907123692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 19 Jul (MENA)—Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Council and PLO representative in Tunis, affirmed that contacts continue between the PLO and its brothers in the Arabian Gulf. This is part of an effort to clear the atmosphere and normalize Palestinian relations with the Gulf states so that Arab solidarity can become comprehensive and positive and to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

In an interview with MENA's Tunis correspondent, Bal'awi talked about the recent visit he and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, made to Oman at the invitation of their Omani brothers to discuss the Arab situation, especially developments on the Palestine question at this important stage. Their viewpoints were identical regarding the issues, foremost of which is Arab coordination and support for Palestine and the Palestinian negotiators.

The Palestinian official praised the important and prominent efforts Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id is exerting to restore Arab solidarity. His latest moves were a visit to Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and a visit to Egy??, where he met President Husni Mubarak and discussed the importance of increasing Arab coordination to create a sound climate and effective Arab solidarity.

Bal'awi said that the ongoing and continuous meetings with the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in Tunis, led by the Saudi Arabian ambassador, come under the PLO's policy of working continuously at all levels to evaluate current events. He said that a positive climate has begun to prevail over Arab states and that the Arab disputes of the past two years have started to dissipate.

The Palestinian official revealed that Palestinian officials will visit some Gulf and Arab capitals to elevate the level of coordination and discussion. Signs of comprehensive Arab coordination are emerging. He mentioned the Arab meeting to be held in Damascus on 24 July and attended by the four cordon states; Egypt; Saudi Arabia, representing the GCC; and Morocco, representing the Arab Maghreb Union.

The Palestinian official said the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions, representatives of the Palestine National Council president's office, PLO Executive Committee members, and Fatah Central Council members will all participate in Tuesday's meeting of the Palestinian leadership. Some members of the Palestinian delegation might also take part in the meetings, expected to address current political developments, evaluate previous and future stages of the peace process, and prepare for the coming negotiations in Rome. It will also evaluate the recent Israeli elections, in which those calling for Greater Israel, the Likud, were toppled.

Bal'awi commented about the recent tension in the occupied Palestinian territories between Fatah and Hamas. He said that this is under control because of the responsible democratic dialogue that Fatah and the Palestinian leadership called for. They also succeeded in ending the clashes. He said that all conspiracies to fragment Palestinian unity have failed.

Envoy Denies Hamas Statement on al-Najah Incident

JN2007063992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 92 pp 1,5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Sunday appeared to renew its conflict with Fatah, accusing it of penetrating the campus of al-Najah University in Nabulus and intimidating students to vote for its supporters in the student councils elections.

In a fiery statement on Sunday, Hamas said that "armed members of Fatah movement entered the university once students started preparing for their election campaigns, and brandished their weapons to threaten the students and force them to vote for al-Shabibah bloc, which is affiliated with Fatah." It said that the armed members of Fatah threatened to "turn the university up-side-down if their bloc did not win the elections."

"These accusations are completely untrue, complete lies." Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayeb 'Abd-al-Rahim told the Jordan Times when he was informed of the contents of the statement.

He said that Hamas was trying to renew its conflict with Fatah despite a peace agreement reached last week. He said that such accusations damage Palestinian national unity and hurt the image of all the Palestinian people.

Hamas condemned Fatah for agreeing to the expulsion of six Palestinian students, describing the agreement as a grave precedent and a blow to Palestinian efforts to fight the expulsion policy.

"Our people completely reject and condemn every one involved in reaching the agreement" with Israel to expel the six Palestinians, the statement said. Hamas accused Fatah of reaching the agreement alone.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the decision to agree to Israeli demands to expel the students was reached with the knowledge of all those besieged at al-Najah, including members of Hamas.

"Why did members of Hamas remain in the university and support the students when they were besieged by Israeli forces," he asked.

The stand-off a. al-Najah University started on July 14 when Israeli authorities besieged the campus claiming that armed Palestinians were hiding inside it. Around 3,000 students, employees and staff members were held inside the university for four days. The conflict was defused when Palestinian leaders and Israeli authorities agreed to the expulsion of six Palestinians Israel claimed were active members of the Palestinian resistance.

The six Palestinian students told a press conference in Amman Saturday that they agreed to the expulsion decision to prevent an imminent Israeli attack on the university.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said the decision was taken to prevent bloodshed. He noted that the expulsion is not permanent and that the students will be able to return to their homeland in three years.

The ambassador said that Hamas is giving credence to Israeli claims by promoting "these lies." He said that Hamas should be calling to the return of the expelled students instead of trying to sow the seeds of a new conflict with Fatah.

"Members of Hamas were also besieged in the university and nobody said that they saw anybody carrying guns," he said.

The ambassador reiterated earlier statements by the expelled students that Israel wanted 20 Palestinians it claimed were armed and on campus. He said that Israel later admitted that no armed students were inside the university.

Hamas demanded that people responsible for reaching the compromise with Israel be held accountable and all the facts about the al-Najah stand-off revealed.

The compromise agreement was also condemned by Israeli hardliners. Likud Member of Knesset Ariel Ron Nachman was quoted by the Jerusalem Post on Sunday as saying that Israel should have punished the students. However, both Palestinians and Israeli observers saw the compromise solution to the conflict as a shift from ideological principles to political expediency.

A news analysis published by the Jerusalem Post on Sunday said that "the pending of principles on both sides for the sake of peace has placed the Palestinian-Israeli problem on firmer political footing.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Scheduled for 12 Dec in Dhaka

BK2107155492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] will be held in Dhaka in December this year. The three-day summit will begin on the 12th, it was officially announced in Dhaka today. A Foreign Ministry source said the heads of state and government of member countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—will take part in the moot.

This will be the second time Bangladesh will host the highest-level meeting of the association. The first summit was held in Dhaka in December 1985 when the SAARC was formally launched to promote the socioeconomic conditions of more than 1 billion people in the region.

The summit will be preceded by a two-day meeting of the council of ministers. The meeting of the council, comprising the foreign ministers of all member countries, will also be preceded by a two-day session of the standing committee of the foreign secretaries. A meeting of the program committee at the senior officials' level will be held on December 6th.

A high-level committee headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been constituted to issue necessary policy guidelines and instructions in respect of the preparation and conduct of the meetings.

Egypt

Secretary of State Baker Arrives in Cairo 22 Jul

NC2207111492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Cairo today from Damascus for a few hours visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with the U.S. secretary of state upon his arrival. During his stay, Baker will hold talks on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2207111692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this afternoon at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace. President Mubarak held a bilateral round of talks with Mr. Baker.

Mubarak Extends Condolences to Syria's al-Asad

NC2107131192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this morning and expressed his deepest condolences on the death of the Syrian president's mother.

Musa Returns From Talks With European Council

NC2107073292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Brussels early this morning after leading Egypt's delegation to the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council meeting. Last week he also attended Security Council meetings to discuss the situation in South Africa.

In an arrival statement, he said the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council meetings were good and that he held talks throughout yesterday with the foreign ministers of the 12 EC member states. He said they discussed ways to promote cooperation between Egypt and the EC, implementing the 4th economic protocol and the Egyptian economic reform program, and the peace negotiations and situations in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Mediterranean.

He said Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo today and James Baker's visit tomorrow take place when preparations are being made to resume the peace negotiations in light of regional developments.

Musa said the foreign ministers concerned with the Middle East crisis will meet in Damascus on Friday [24 July] to coordinate the Arab position before the peace negotiations resume.

Musa will submit to President Husni Mubarak a comprehensive report about the Security Council and European-Egyptian Cooperation Council meetings.

'Arafat Adviser Departs After 5-Day Visit

NC2107154392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Tunisia this afternoon following a five-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, he said that he will attend parts of the meetings of the Palestinian leaders that began in Tunis yesterday to prepare for the Palestinian action in the coming stage during the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations slated to be held in Rome.

Defense Minister on Troops Departing for Sarajevo

NC1907135492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi stated that the Egyptian troops participating in the international peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo will leave Egypt in the next few days to assume their peacekeeping role.

In a press statement today, Gen. Tantawi said that the Egyptian troops who will join the command of the international forces already left Egypt, along with some initial groups of troops.

Asked about incidents involving the international troops and the artillery shelling of certain aircraft and whether this will undermine the security of the Egyptian troops traveling to Sarajevo, the defense minister stated: Before sending any Egyptian officer or soldier, we make sure that he is completely secure. He stated that all Egyptian troops will be completely secure.

Editorial Views 'Conspiracy' Against Bosnia

NC1807111892 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text] How do U.S. President George Bush and other major leaders explain their position about the Serbian gangs, their insistence on demolishing every standing building and killing every breathing soul in Bosnia-Hercegovina and their strangely stubborn refusal to comply with the world leaders' appeals, warnings, and threats?

Have the leaders of the new world order not become convinced yet that a conspiracy, drawn up in Belgrade, is now being actively implemented to force out the citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina, or rather those left alive following months of massacres? The perpetrators appear totally assured that no new attempts will be made to stop them until they have achieved their principal goal of seizing the territories—at least the largest possible areas—of the republics neighboring Serbia and Montenegro.

Regrettably, the continued delay of a decision to use military force to free Bosnia-Hercegovina lends credence to rumors circulated in international political quarters that a type of deal has been made to allow Serbia to seize the territories it wants. This accusation might not be true; but procrastination in confronting this flagrant aggression arouses suspicion and raises questions about what is happening behind the scenes.

All neutral counts of human and property losses suffered by the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina reveal an extremely hideous human tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of victims have fallen and most buildings in Sarajevo and other cities and villages have been demolished in a blatant attempt to alter the republic's demographic composition. The UN Security Council must issue clear resolutions emphasizing that the results of this conspiracy will not be recognized and holding Serbia accountable for reparations to the aggrieved people so that they can eventually rebuild their country. Reparations must also be paid for the thousands who have died, although life is more valuable than mere financial compensation.

The tragedy has lasted longer than necessary. It is time to draw the curtain on its bloody acts before it turns into a greater catastrophe.

Editorial Views Palestinian 'Infighting'

NC1807111392 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
12 Jul 92 p 5

[Editorial: "Enough Squandering of Palestinian Efforts"]

[Text] We thought that all the Palestinian groups and organizations had, at last, become convinced that they need to unite, particularly because the peace efforts have entered a new stage, which began with the U.S. stand that reflects a serious desire to see calm Middle East. No one can ignore this stand's effect on the outcome of the recent Israeli elections and the collapse of the Likud bloc government led by Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our hopes, however, have been dashed. As soon as signs of optimism began to sweep the region—following the changes that have led to the imminent disappearance of Shamir and his followers from the political arena—and when the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah is drawing near and all the U.S. weapons have failed to stop this intifadah, Arab ears are being deafened by the sound of new infighting in the Palestinian ranks. Palestinian bullets are killing Palestinians rather than those who deserve them.

The news of the renewed clashes between the supporters of Fatah, led by Yasir 'Arafat, and the supporters of the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are a painful shock. They only deepen the sadness and pain felt by these splits, which some Palestinian elements are determined to maintain and exacerbate despite the regrettable effects on the Arab stand in the peace talks.

The amazing thing is that the secessionist group that calls itself "Hamas" is still thinking with the same mentality that was one of the major causes of the June 1967 setback. It continues to raise quixotic slogans that reject a settlement through peaceful means and through negotiations and demands the elimination of Israel without bothering to explain how to do it.

Every Arab loyal to his nation's causes, the foremost of which is the Palestinian issue that has squandered the Arab nation's resources for almost half a century, appeals to the Palestinians of all ideologies and trends to reunite and restore their cohesiveness to confront this fateful period.

Column on Withdrawing From Damascus Declaration

NC1807111592 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
13 Jul 92 p 3

["Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Excerpts] The subject of foreign political relations, particularly relations with the Arab brothers, imposes restrictions on the writer that he willingly and voluntarily accepts understanding as he does that secrets exist that only very few officials are allowed to know. Although we really are free to write whatever we want without control or accountability, we avoid writing frankly about particular subjects that affect our national security and relationships with others, because we appreciate the circumstances surrounding these issues. [passage omitted]

A notable example of the subjects we avoid discussing, except by remote hints, is the Damascus Declaration, comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council's six member states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain), Egypt, and Syria. Many months ago, immediately following the Gulf war, the six states were supposed to cooperate with Egypt and Syria in organizing security matters to defend the Gulf against future danger. Every few months, however, action has been on the agreement. The latest date for a meeting of the eight countries' foreign ministers was 9 September 1992. Reports indicate that the meeting has now been postponed, for the fourth time, until December. Rumors abound about the reasons for the new postponement and, of course, the United States and Iran are mentioned in the matter.

What I have mentioned so far is not the part we are reluctant to write about. What we have been reluctant to ask is: Is it not better for us—for our dignity, prestige, and good relations with others—to wash our hands of this declaration and treat it as something that never existed. This way, we can avoid reluctance and embarrassment and can be realistic and understand that the Gulf brothers have reasons preventing them from implementing the agreement. Some people might construe our insistence on holding a foreign ministers meeting to discuss how to implement the provisions of the Damascus Declaration as self-serving. Even if we had a personal, or public, interest in doing so, is it not better to announce our withdrawal from the declaration? In this way we could provide relief for ourselves and others.

Iraqi Denials Said To Prove Coup Attempt

NC1907200992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Ahmad al-Razzaz commentary: "Certainty, Not Mirage, Is Further Proof of Saddam Husayn's Aggression"]

[Excerpts] It is a matter of certainty, not a mirage, that a coup attempt occurred in Baghdad last month to overthrow Saddam Husayn. It is also certain that the ruler of Iraq physically liquidated the military commanders and officers who undertook this attempt by shooting them dead. Saddam Husayn himself shot the leader of the coup attempt. Last month's coup took place before Iraq's celebrations marking the Ba'th Party's assumption of power in July 1968. The certainty of the coup attempt is confirmed by the regime's denial, in an attempt to remove the suspicion and fear from the hearts of the Iraqi Ba'thists, who were shaken by the attempt, which sought to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and Army as a result of Saddam Husayn's serious practices, which reached the point of sins, ever since he assumed power after assassinating former President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr [as heard]. Denying news of the attempt and repeating this denial several times provide conclusive proof that a coup attempt did take place at that time. It is the first time that the Iraqi regime hastened to make a denial, although it used to do so in the past. In an emotionally shaken and disturbed reaction to the coup, the Iraqi ruler resorted to two things in an attempt to look tough. First: He broadcast a television program in July called Certainty, Not Mirage. In the program, Saddam Husayn tried to stir the emotions of both the people and the Army by harping on the chauvinistic tune, which he stirred by his ambitions and aggression, that Kuwait is an inseparable part of Iraq and that Iraqis have a right to Kuwait's wealth, thus promising them wealth from heaven to compensate for their long suffering as a result of his aggressive practices and adventures. [passage omitted]

Despite Arab calls for mending the rift that followed the tragedy of the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam came up with this television program to talk about Kuwait and his ambitions there in an attempt to gain false popularity after his image was strongly shaken by the coup attempt. If this ruler believes that such practices will do him good he is again mistaken, and he is committing another sin and approaching his end in a quagmire. This is particularly so since last month's coup attempt was led and carried out by Army officers, and this is very serious since there is no room for anybody in the Army except those who belong to the ruling Iraqi Ba'th Party, which is ruling the people with blood and fire. By broadcasting this program, Saddam sought to stir a chauvinistic theme that he thought would do him good and allow him to save face. It had a considerable impact on those who belong to the Ba'th Party because everything in Iraq, including the ruling regime itself, has been shaken and that the inevitable end is nearing. [sentence as heard]

In addition to the television program called Certainty Not Mirage, which was broadcast on the direct orders of Saddam Husayn to revive his aggressive ambitions and threats against Kuwait, Saddam reverted to his cheap method of slandering a number of Arab leaders, as if this would gain him popularity and support and consolidate his regime, but the exact opposite is true. What is known about this ruler is that whenever he gets involved in troubles and faces the people's anger, he steps up his abuse of and fabrications against Arab leaders, thinking that this will prove his strength and the power of his regime. [passage omitted]

The quagmire in which Saddam Husayn has stepped into as a result of his crimes will swallow this ruler, whose end is inevitable, and this end is a certainty, not a mirage.

Interior Minister Gives Statement to NDP Congress

NC2107093892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2033 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa denied that 27,000 troops were sent to Dayrut or Sanabu, saying that only 700 soldiers are there, distributed among 34 villages. In a statement to the National Democratic Party's [NDP] 6th Congress Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee, chaired by Dr. Mustafa Khalil, the interior minister said that all the groups trying to destabilize the country had failed.

The interior minister said that during the Gulf war, 49 attempts to infiltrate the Egyptian border were thwarted. He noted that any future attempts will also be foiled, despite Egypt's lengthy borders with its neighbors.

On Dr. Yusuf Wali's statement that some individuals are bringing weapons into the country, the interior minister said it is true to an extent, but these attempts are not directed against Egypt.

The interior minister said he did not ask for a separate antiterrorism law to be enacted because he can confront and contain terrorism. He announced that two wanted

extremists are still at large, one in Asyut and one in Qina, and that 71 extremist leaders have been arrested.

He announced: The situation is not too worrying and we are not disturbed. We can contain any attempts to disrupt security, particularly attacks on tourists, which are the terrorists' way of twisting the security forces' arm. They started doing this after failing in their attacks on the security forces to undermine stability and tourism.

The interior minister said that if he remains in his post he will request the use of the emergency law to thwart any attempt to undermine security and stability.

He said that the security forces' weapons, communications, and training have been upgraded, particularly in Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan, to firmly confront any attempted assault on tourists.

The interior minister said the security forces and the Armed Forces are coordinating fully to secure the country's land, water, and air boundaries, which, he declared, will not be infiltrated.

He concluded by noting that investment opportunities are available in Egypt and that the country is more secure than any other.

Arrest of Top Islamists in Asyut Denied

NC2107173592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah] in Asyut, Egypt, told the Lebanese paper AL-SAFIR that the Egyptian Armed Forces, which raided and searched homes and mosques in the city of Asyut, failed to arrest any of the leading figures of the Islamic Group and merely detained 30 average citizens. The Islamic Group leader said that the Army could not arrest Islamic Group members because of their close rapport with the masses. The leader said that the Islamic Group aims to establish an Islamic state in Egypt after the model of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Statistical Agency Notes 21 Percent Price Rise

NC1707161792 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 9-15 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Prices showed an increase of 21 per cent in March 1992, compared with the same time last year. The highest increases were related to housing, which rose by 38.9 per cent, caused, in turn, by a 92.6 per cent increase in the prices of energy and electricity.

Food, drinks and tobacco registered a small increase of 15.7 per cent during the same period. Fresh and preserved vegetables retained the greatest share of the increase, rising by 31.8 per cent. Oils and fats rose by only 1.1 per cent for the same period.

Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, declared that the increase involved the whole country, although border towns witnessed the highest raise percentage, 22 per cent, followed by Alexandria, Cairo, governorates of Lower Egypt, and governorates of Upper Egypt. Canal cities registered the least raise, 20.8 per cent.

As for the countryside, in Lower Egypt prices increased by 25 per cent, whereas in Upper Egypt they rose 22 per cent. Clothes and textiles had the greatest share of price increases, 47 per cent; followed by housing and energy, 33 per cent; furniture and appliances, 31 per cent; and food and drinks by 19 per cent.

'Abd-al-'Aziz reassures that price increases were based on a thorough study of the market, production levels and imports.

Petroleum Minister Cited on Exploration Efforts

NC2007155892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of oil and mineral resources, stated that 17 test wells and 20 production wells were drilled during the first quarter of this year. In a statement today, al-Banbi said that 34 exploration units are currently operating in various large offshore and onshore locations under the strategy of searching for crude oil and natural gas.

He added that the ministry's strategy depends on expanding exploration to new areas, especially in the western desert and deeper waters in the Red and Mediterranean Seas. Offshore exploration has thus far concentrated on the Suez Canal. The minister noted that 15 drills are operating on land; 11 in the western desert and four in the Nile Delta and Sinai. Nineteen drills are operating at sea.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Indonesian Delegation

LD2007192792 Tripoli JANA in English 1458 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received today a delegation from the Republic of Indonesia presided by the minister of education and culture as a personal envoy of President Suharto. He handed to the leader of the revolution a message from the Indonesian president regarding the [word indistinct] Congress of the Non-aligned Summit [word indistinct] which will be held in Indonesia during first to seventh Al Fateh (September).

The personal envoy of President Suharto and the accompanying delegation exchanged amicable talks and comments in respect of the issues of interest to both sisterly countries.

The Indonesian delegation expressed desire to take photographs with the leader of the revolution as souvenir of the occasion.

Libyan, U.S, Austrian Companies Discover Oil

LD2207073692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jul (JANA)—The Al-Zuwaytinah Oil Company, one of the companies of the National Oil Corporation [NOC] in the Great Jamahiriyah, announced jointly with the American international Occidental company and the Austrian company OMV [Austrian Petroleum Administration] a new discovery of oil in the Sidra sedimentary basin.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the Al-Zuwaytinah Company stated that the new oil discovery was made during the drilling of the 17th well in field 103 in the Sidra sedimentary basin, which confirmed the existence of oil in the reef knolls reservoir, in addition to its existence at the lime reservoir.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the Al-Zuwaytinah company clarified that the initial results coming out of drilling this well, in cooperation with the American Occidental and Austrian OMV companies, confirmed the addition of hundreds of millions of recoverable barrels of oil after their daily extraction from being pumped out of this new site.

Tunisia

Al-Nahdah Leader Ghannouchi Interviewed

NC1807093092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 1, 13

[Interview with Shaykh Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement, by Paris correspondent Sami Kulayb 'somewhere in Europe'; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kulayb] President Zein El Abidine Ben Ali was behind your release from prison. You even exchanged some positive remarks with him at the time. Why has your relationship changed to a more hostile one since then?
[Ghannouchi] We wanted it to be more than a truce; a truce means a halt to war. We wanted to move our relationship with the state from one of conflict to one of complete accord so that we could work to develop the country and our ideas and programs. When the state made its first initiative after Ben Ali became president, after he declared his intention to achieve democracy and rehabilitate Arab Islamic culture, we had no choice but to back him in implementing his program. We did so from the premise that there was no mutual enmity and because we harbored no grudges. We were innovators of ideas and values that we wanted to achieve as quickly and as cheaply as possible. [passage omitted]

It is true that we left prison, but we seem to have entered into a larger one. We could not resume our work, and we were not given back our civil rights. We were looked on as people with a record; that is, with records of political crimes. We were not recognized even though parties that have no political importance were. We were treated as second-class citizens. We were accused of monopolizing religion due to our movement's name (formerly the Islamic Trend Movement). We said the issue was not that important; we changed our name and signed a national charter that had many points with which we did not agree. Because we believe in gradual change, we accepted coexistence. The other side went back on its promise when it rigged the elections. That was a great shock for us and for Tunisians in general, because the parliament was the same as the old bland one. As you know, not a single opposition deputy has entered the parliament since Tunisia's independence 38 years ago. No opposition figure has occupied a municipal seat. We relied too much on Ben Ali, because we believed that he would develop political life as he promised. We had to retract our support, however, when the elections were rigged.

[Kulayb] What will be your stand if death sentences are passed and carried out?
[Ghannouchi] This will not change our peaceful democratic course. We are not a source of violence; we are its victim. It is an irony of this age that those who perpetrate violence are the judges of the victims of violence. We lost (or gained, if religious logic is applied) 25 members of our movement last year, all of whom died either in prisons or by police bullets in the streets. This is merely the result of blocking the scopes for political action and the hegemony of a single party. The regime and circles close to it are talking about the possible execution of 100 or 50 people. Should the executions take place, we will hold the Ben Ali regime and the domestic and foreign forces that support it and finance terrorism in Tunisia responsible for the consequences.

[Kulayb] Are most of those being tried involved with al-Nahdah?
[Ghannouchi] No. Some of them are al-Nahdah leaders, others are members, others merely sympathizers. Others are an-Nahdah adversaries. For example, al-Nahdah has no military wing, it is only a political party, but military figures have been included in the case to incriminate us. Some of these officers have been out of the Army since 1987. Others were expelled from the Army because they performed their religious rites, and praying has become a reason for expulsion from the Army. Some of the military figures have nothing to do with Islam while others are being tried due to their honesty or because their loyalties are suspected.

[Kulayb] To what extent can events in Tunisia be compared to those in Algeria?
[Ghannouchi] I want to devote myself to the situation in Tunisia. I believe what happened in Algeria was very regrettable, because the experiment there was important to the Arab world. We pinned great hopes on it. The Ben Ali regime was suffocated by democracy in Algeria; we were convinced that either democracy would collapse or the Ben Ali regime would collapse or would desist from the policy of repression. What is happening now in

Algeria is a bump, not a complete collapse, in the democratic experiment. We hope that the country's new leadership will follow the course of national reconciliation and forestall a possible civil war.

[Kulayb] Judging by the growth of Islamic trends in the Arab world, what do you believe is the future of political Islam in this region?
[Ghannouchi] Islam will rule the Arab and Islamic worlds. An objective assessment will show that the Islamic concept has no rival among the Arab public. I recall here an idea voiced by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud during a visit to Algeria after the elections. He said that what happened in Algeria would happen in any Arab country if free elections were held.

[Kulayb] When will Islam rule the Arab world?
[Ghannouchi] I believe Islam will rule the entire Islamic world within 20 years. Islamic rule will come either peacefully and calmly, as we hope, or violently.

[Kulayb] With which Islamic leaders of which Arab countries do you have ties?
[Ghannouchi] The majority of leaders of the Islamic movement in the world are my brothers and friends. Some I regard as mentors. The Islamic nation is originally one nation and its ulema have important ties with each other. This level of ties, however, does not mean that we have organizational ties, as usually reported.

[Kulayb] Where are such reports circulated?
[Ghannouchi] In numerous places. It is said that an Islamic internationalism exists. We maintain that this is untrue. When one examines the Islamic movement, one discovers that it behaves differently according to the place and time. Sometimes the errors it makes in one place are repeated elsewhere, which means the movement is subject to trial and error.

[Kulayb] Is it true that you learned political Islam in Syria?
[Ghannouchi] Yes.

[Kulayb] And later in Egypt?
[Ghannouchi] No. When I was in Egypt I was a Nasirist.

[Kulayb] To return to Tunisia. Although you assert that liberties are absent in Tunisia, we see that the West sympathizes with Ben Ali's regime. Why?
[Ghannouchi] The West has interests linked to the established system. Had the Islamic movement ruled Tunisia, the West would have agreed to deal with it. I do not believe there is a veto on relations with the Islamic movement.

[Kulayb] Nevertheless, the West prefers not to see Islam assume political power.
[Ghannouchi] I am not saying that the West finds the Islamic movement desirable. The legacy of the past forbids that. But the West will not send its fleets to prevent Islamic rule if the latter's wish is to liberate its country, develop its economy, and does not seek to kill or use violence in Islam's name.

[Kulayb] Will you agree to operate under Tunisian President Ben Ali?
[Ghannouchi] We accepted something less than participation in power. We agreed to be a recognized political party that is able to operate. We were forbidden to do that now. We were forbidden to share in power. We do not believe that a single political party can shoulder the burden of power in the country and succeed in setting it on the path of national accord. The alternative to one-party rule cannot be another single party. What is needed is plurality and national accord, which means a coalition government that will pave the way to reconciliation and real democracy.

[Kulayb] Is there a chance of things blowing up if the current conditions do not change? Do you fear this?
[Ghannouchi] Things will certainly blow up.

[Kulayb] When?
[Ghannouchi] I cannot see the future, but recent experience in Tunisia proves that continuing one-party rule and "police" control over the political, media, and economic aspects of life will lead to disaster. I believe Tunisia is going through a dark tunnel toward a real conflict. It is true that the Islamic movement in Tunisia is reasonable and moderate and has eschewed violence; but it will always be able to control things. Tunisia today is at a crossroads. I believe that new bloodshed in the country will close the door on dialogue, negotiation, and the exercise of politics in general. It will pave the way to violence and an unknown future.

Islamists' Trials Postponed Until 30 Jul

LD2107201292 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The trial of the Islamists in Tunisia: The court this afternoon completed the hearings of the 137 accused who were present; as you know, they are all accused of harming state security. The speeches for the defense were postponed until the end of the month. From Tunis, here is Rida Boughezi:

[Boughezi] The matter was put off until 30 July to allow the lawyers to thoroughly examine their clients' cases and to prepare their speeches. Meanwhile, the presiding court judge delegated to a military judge the freedom to proceed with a further inquiry into this affair, as some of the accused, supported by their lawyers, pointed to inconsistencies in the preliminary investigation report. Certain anomalies relate to the date of arrest of the accused, the duration of their preventive duration, and also the ill-treatment that certain prisoners maintain they suffered during the police interrogation.

This court decision, which received a positive welcome from the defense, comes at the precise moment when the Higher Commission on Human Rights' investigation report is published. The investigation was requested by President Ben Ali regarding certain instances of abuse carried out by police officials. According to the report, 116 police officials were shown to be guilty and accused of abuses; fifty-five of them received sentences that vary according to the degree of seriousness of their acts; A judicial investigation is proceeding in about 50 other cases. The report furthermore notes about 20 measures taken to protect human rights, including one that makes it obligatory for all officials responsible for applying the law to sign an undertaking to observe the human rights charter and the conventions signed by Tunisia in this field.

Bahrain

Spokesman Reacts to Qatari Statement on Dispute

JN2107150292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Manama, 21 Jul (WAKH)—Commenting on a press statement made by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar on 2 July 1992, an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Bahrain has made the following statement:

The State of Bahrain reiterates its call on the sisterly State of Qatar to review its stand on Bahrain's initiative in which it proposes signing an agreement on all controversial issues between the two sisterly countries to reach a just and final solution.

The State of Bahrain presented its initiative to the sisterly State of Qatar out of its belief that the best way to resolve the existing differences between the two states is to present a joint request to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Therefore, the State of Bahrain has not agreed to the unilateral request made by the State of Qatar to the ICJ on 8 July 1992. In addition to the fact that the Qatari request to the ICJ does not include all the existing disputable matters between the two states, the request is also not in harmony with the progress of the previous talks between the two countries. Contrary to what came in the Qatari statement, the State of Bahrain stresses that no previous agreements were reached between the two states allowing the State of Qatar to present a unilateral request to the ICJ concerning its existing differences with the State of Bahrain.

The memoranda which are currently being presented to the ICJ deal with the jurisdiction of this court in accepting the unilateral Qatari request in accordance with the court's order on 11 October 1991 which says that the court starts deciding on jurisdiction and acceptance of requests unilaterally before being engaged in the substance of the issue. The court also issued an order on 26 June 1992 calling for continuing the current procedure being presented to the court.

Based on the State of Bahrain's desire to speed up the efforts toward finding a final solution to the disputed subject between the two fraternal countries, it had launched its initiative with the hope that the State of Qatar would respond with it in order to present the case jointly to the ICJ through concluding a special agreement that covers all points of disagreement and enables the court to review and decide on all issues which the two countries want to present to the court. This will also enable the court to reach an early resolution and will guarantee a solution for all differences between the two countries for good.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Ukraine, Belize

JN2007115592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Manama, 20 Jul (WAKH)—Bahrain has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Ukraine and Belize, this proceeds from a desire to strengthen friendly relations and develop cooperation with these countries in various fields.

A statement issued by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry today said that Bahrain has agreed with both countries to develop bilateral relations based on equality and mutual respect for regional sovereignty, independence, and security as well as non-interferance in domestic affairs according to the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Kuwait

Official Says Saddam Assassination Only 'Rumor'

LD2107171792 Hamburg DPA in German 1635 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo/Manama (DPA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper report about Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's alleged assassination is only "a rumor," a high-ranking Kuwaiti official told DPA today concerning the subject of the newspaper's report today stating that Saddam was the victim of a bodyguard's attack.

There was no comment from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, because it does not have any information. The emirate's Information Ministry referred to the fact that neither Iraqi television nor radio, which are received in Kuwait, gave any indications that Saddam was assassinated. A leading Iraqi (male) member of the opposition in Beirut cast doubts on the report and said that rumors from Kuwait are often unreliable. Reports that later proved to be false were also heard often in Baghdad, he said.

Cabinet Holds Weekly Briefing Session

LD2007085792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The cabinet held its weekly session today under the chairmanship of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, said in a briefing after the meeting that the cabinet at the outset took note of the messages sent to his highness the amir from His Excellency the President of Djibouti Gouled Hassan, His

Excellency the President of Albania Dr. Sali Berisha, and His Excellency the President Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev.

The messages' content was related to the existing strong relations with Kuwait and ways of expanding them in the future. Mr. al-Uthman added that the cabinet also reviewed the attitude of the Iraqi regime towards implementation of UN Security Council resolutions related to the Kuwait cause and which reflected the regime's persistence in its policy, which ignores the UN resolutions and evades their implementation. The cabinet also monitored international reaction to that attitude.

He added that in the framework of political moves to rally support to Kuwait's just cause versus the Iraqi regime's persistence in stalling the UN Security Council's relevant resolutions and upon the directives of his highness the amir, the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, will pay visits to Morocco, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Zimbabwe and Cape Verde. The Minister of Information Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, will visit China, India and Japan. The Minister of Higher Education Dr. 'Ali al-Shamlan, will visit the United States, Ecuador, and Venezuela and the minister of oil will pay visits to the Russian Federation, Hungary and Austria.

The ministers will carry messages from his highness the amir to the heads of those states which are current members of the UN Security Council. The message content is related to the measures that must be taken to ensure the full implementation of UN resolutions by the Iraqi regime, which insists on stalling their implementation, contrary to the will of the international community.

The Council of Ministers expressed full confidence that the world community shall never hesitate to apply all deterrent measures against the Iraqi regime's arrogance and indifference to the international legality, so as to ensure the full implementation of it's resolutions, which will virtually lead to the consolidation of stability in the region and assert the UN effective role in strengthening international peace.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs went on to say that the cabinet was also briefed on the message sent to his highness the crown prince and prime minister by the prime minister of Turkey, Suleyman Damirel, in which he invited his highness to attend the inaugural ceremony of energy plants on Ataturk Dam. The cabinet also took note of the reply message by his highness, expressing thanks for the invitation and assigning the minister of oil to attend the ceremony, wishing Turkey further progress and prosperity.

The cabinet was also informed of the message to his highness the crown prince and prime minister from the Prime Minister of Japan Kiichi Miyazawa, in reply to his highness's message in which the Japanese premier expressed his pleasure in visiting Kuwait, so as to discuss ways of boosting relations between the two countries.

The cabinet then heard a report by the Minister of Interior Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, about the sabotage network which carried out a number of explosive attacks, which took place recently in Kuwait.

The cabinet was also briefed on the outcome of the investigation, conducted with the five-man network, who confessed to have carried out sabotage and terrorist acts and which were masterminded by the intelligence of the treacherous Iraqi regime with the aim of disrupting Kuwait's stability and security and spreading hatred and division within the Kuwaiti society. The minister of interior also informed the cabinet about all details related to that network's activities and its relationship with the Iraqi regime's intelligence. He also briefed the cabinet of the weapons and explosives seized from the network's members.

The network was a another cell from various cells planted by the Iraqi regime in Kuwait with a view to execute its vicious schemes and to disrupt Kuwait's stability and security. His highness the crown prince and prime minister lauded the ever continuing efforts being earnestly exerted by the ministry of interior and which led to the uncovering of that evil network. His Highness also thanked the citizens for their alertness and cooperation with the security men. He called on all citizens to be on maximum alert to manifest greater cooperation with the security apparatus.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs concluded that in view of what his highness the crown prince and prime minister has explained with regard to the university city, which enjoyed top priority by the government, the cabinet heard a report submitted by the Minister of Higher Education Dr. 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Shamlan, in which he summed up his vision concerning the implementation of that project and the available options for the proposed location. The cabinet asked the minister of higher education to further continue all necessary studies related to this project, so as to commence the implementation phase.

The cabinet also reviewed a draft law by decree on the creation of public authority for youth and sport, as proposed by the Committee of Legal and Legislative Affairs. The proposed authority will look after youth affairs and upgrade sport movement and expand its role in various spheres so that youth capabilities could be

channeled to the service of their country's higher interests and in the framework of the state's general policy. The authority will be managed by a board of directors, chaired by the minister of social affairs and labor. The cabinet decided to approve the draft law by decree in the first reading. It will be adopted in the forthcoming meeting.

The minister of communications also briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the sixth meeting of the GCC Ministers of Communications which convened in Riyadh last Tuesday. The minister of oil also reported to the cabinet on the recent meeting in Norway by oil ministers of the oil producers and consumers.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets Ex-Afghan Leader Mojaddedi

LD2107202292 Riyadh SPA in English 1914 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, July 21, SPA — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received here today visiting Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the former president of Afghanistan, and Mawlawi Nabi Mohammedi, the president of the Supreme Court in Afghanistan. The monarch also received here today the ulema (Islamic scholars), sheikhs and a group of citizens who came to greet him. The audience was attended by a number of princes.

UN Team Withdraws From Ministry, Citing Threats

JN2207084092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Mark Silver, head of the inspection team stationed outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, this morning decided to withdraw his team members and return to the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad.

Mark Silver claimed that he made this decision due to what he termed "threats of physical pressure" to which the team members were exposed. When asked about the meaning of the phrase "threats of physical pressure," he said the Iraqi Government has failed to ensure the safety of the Special Commission inspectors.

Commenting on these allegations by Mark Silver, an official spokesman has stated the following:

The Iraqis, who are now the target of humiliation attempts by the states of aggression which imposed an unfair blockade on them, have the right to express their indignation over the practices of the United States and Britain, which are using the Security Council and the United Nations to pursue their criminal policy against Iraq and violate its sovereignty.

The Iraqis were careful not to harm any inspection team member. They demonstrated on the other side of the street opposite the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Not only that, Iraqi security men formed a cordon around the inspection team to protect them from any unintended harm. Nobody has inflicted any type of harm on any of the inspection team members. Foreign as well as Arab reporters are witnesses to the discipline demonstrated by the Iraqi masses. Even the inspection team members paid tribute to the discipline displayed by Iraqi demonstrators despite the tension and suffering caused to the Iraqi people by the U.S. Administration.

The official spokesman added: Mark Silver must be accurate and honest in his reporting of events. His team members were disgusted with the impasse created by their chief Rolf Ekeus. They also opposed the performance of missions that only suit thieves and gangsters, and not specialists, scientists, or officers who hold in high esteem the sense of honorable soldiership. Furthermore, the team members informed Ekeus that they reject being used by the U.S. Administration to promote Bush's anti-Iraq policy.

Spokesman Denies UN Allegations

JN2107164292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi spokesman has denied the allegations by the head of the international inspection team stationed in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of a failure to provide adequate protection. He said that Mark Silver's claims are absolutely unfounded.

In a statement to a REUTER correspondent in Baghdad, Mr. Silver said that the Iraqi side has not provided adequate protection for the members of the team stationed in front of the ministry building.

Hassan Muhammad Amin, head of the Iraqi crew escorting the international inspection team, said that these statements are malicious and aimed at escalating the situation and agitating the public opinion.

Mr. Amin told INA that the Iraqi crew escorting the international inspection team is performing its duty of providing protection in the best way. He said that world journalists and news agencies as well as the members of the team itself have praised the guards, noting that this proves the seriousness of the Iraqi guards.

He affirmed that the guards are doing their best to absorb the indignation of the angry masses and do not allow them to approach the international team to spare them any harm. He added that he asked the team members to specify their needs, in accordance with which protection has been provided for them, especially during their moves from front the gate of the ministry to their hotel. He added that their human needs have been met and special protection for their vehicles at the hotel has been provided.

Hassan Muhammad Amin said that citizens have not harmed any member of the international inspection team stationed in front of the ministry building despite the rising popular indignation.

The head of the Iraqi crew charged with protecting and escorting the international inspection team urged the international community and fair ones in the world to support the Iraqi people in confronting the imperialist U.S. and Zionist schemes (?against Iraq). He affirmed Iraq's principled stand with regard to national sovereignty, dignity, and national security.

Demonstrators Hail Saddam, Denounce UN

JN2107153392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Demonstrators marched through the streets of Baghdad today to protest the practices of the international inspection team of scoundrels stationed in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry for the 17th successive day. In a march of protest, the masses of Saddam City denounced the international inspection team's provocative practices, which serve imperialist U.S.-Zionist interests. Demonstrators burned an effigy of the criminal Bush, as well as the U.S. flag. In their chants and banners, the masses hailed the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and his confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist plot, which targets the pride and dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Teachers from Baghdad and the governorates condemned the international inspection team of scoundrels and its attempts to desecrate the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation building. In a protest march, they

affirmed that the team's practices contravene the most basic norms and rules of international law.

Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and health specialists strongly condemned the practices of the international inspection team stationed in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. In a protest march today, they affirmed that the practices of the international inspection team of scoundrels contravene the most basic humanitarian and international norms and charters. The doctors handed over a memorandum of protest addressed to the UN secretary general in which they denounced these practices, which are considered flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Iraqi lawyers denounced the provocative practices of the international inspection team stationed in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. In a protest march, they condemned this flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and national sovereignty. They affirmed that these violations are considered a breach of international law and the principles of dealing between the United Nations and sovereign member-states. The Iraqi lawyers handed over a memorandum of protest addressed to the UN secretary general in which they appealed, on behalf of tens of thousands of Iraqi men of justice and law, for a halt to such violations. They demanded the immediate departure of the team, which came in implementation of U.S. desires to continue plotting and maintaining the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

Al-Anbari Meets U.S., UK, French Ambassadors

JN2207092392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0738 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Jul (INA)—Iraq's permanent UN representative Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari has met with the U.S., UK, and French ambassadors.

The INA correspondent has learned that the three ambassadors had proposed meeting Ambassador al-Anbari at his house so that the meeting would be far from the press at the United Nations since they did not want to give the meeting media prominence.

Half an hour before the meeting, which was held at 1830 New York time yesterday, Tuesday, British Ambassador David Hannay, in statements to reporters at the United Nations, declined to mention anything about the possibility of his meeting with the Iraqi ambassador. He said, however, he would meet with al-Anbari later this week as chairman of the European group.

Briefs Nonaligned UNSC Members

JN2207091092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] United Nations, (INA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari met with the ambassadors of the nonaligned countries which are members in the UN Security Council yesterday afternoon, New York time.

Ambassador al-Anbari told INA that he briefed the nonaligned countries' ambassadors about Iraq's stand on current issues.

Al-Anbari explained that over the past 14 months, Iraq has done everything possible to cooperate with the inspection teams and has implemented all the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 687. However, some Council members are preventing the lifting of the blockade that is imposed on Iraq and preventing Iraq from exporting its oil in accordance with international trade regulations.

Ambassador al-Anbari informed the ambasadors of Morocco, India, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Cape Verde, which are members of the UN Security Council, that 41 inspection teams have so far visited Iraq in addition to six special missions, which spent 450 days working in Iraq, while their helicopters have carried out 1,200 hours of inspection sorties.

Al-Anbari affirmed that had it not been for Iraq's cooperation, the inspection teams would not have been able to carry out their tasks.

MENA Reports Rumors of Saddam Assassination

NC2107134192 Cairo MENA in English 1316 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (MENA)—Strong rumours spread out here today saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was assassinated by one of his guards.

Kuwaiti officials reiterated that there were no information confirming these rumors.

There were no immediate reports that confirm or deny these rumors, an official source at the Information Ministry said, pointing out that neither the Iraqi radio nor television, monitored here, commented on the issue.

Kuwaiti banks and financial institutions, which were greatly concerned with the issue, held contacts with the foreign news agencies to confirm the reports.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the reports, saying that there were no available information yet.

SAIRI—'Abnormal Situation' at Palace

NC2107193292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Rumors circulated in a number of Middle Eastern capitals for several hours today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had been assassinated by one of his guards.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY reported in an urgent dispatch this evening that an assassination attempt was made on Saudi King Fahd by his guards.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement in Damascus this afternoon in

which it said that an abnormal situation [wad'an ghayrat-abi'iy] prevails at the Presidential Palace in Baghdad, where strict security measures have been taken. However, Iraqi radio and television continued to carry normal programs. INA reported at noon today that the Iraqi president sent a message to King Husayn of Jordan.

It should be recalled that the U.S. press carried reports two weeks ago about a coup attempt against the Iraqi president.

Ambassador—Rumors 'Untrue'

LD2207082292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Iraq's ambassador to Algiers told this radio that yesterday's rumors about the assassination of President Saddam Husayn are untrue. The ambassador affirmed that President Saddam is in good health and that he decorated war veterans with medals yesterday.

Spokesman Denounces Sanctions Committee Decisions

JN2207080592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement to INA:

Once again the committee called the Sanctions Committee that was formed in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 661 of 1990 has come out with new decisions that do not differ from previous ones, and which clearly show that some of its members try to find all kinds of excuses and justifications to obstruct responding to the humanitarian and civilian needs of the steadfast Iraqi people. By doing so, the committee ignores the basic humanitarian considerations and ethical standards that are dictated by the fact that we are living at the end of the 20th century with all the civilization that this entails. This also shows the premeditated intentions and political motives that the U.S., British, and French representatives harbor because, most of the time, they are the ones who obstruct the attempts to provide the Iraqi people with humanitarian assistance.

The spokesman added: At the 73d meeting of the committee on 9 July 1992, the above comittee members, resorting to excuses that are no different from the ones they raised at previous meetings, rejected the following:

1. The request by the [UN] Jordanian mission to have the Jordanian national establishment supply Iraq with razor blades.

2. The request by Iraqi citizen Kamal Sardar through the Jordanian mission to export 22,140 plastic capsules to be used in Iraqi hospitals.

3. To allow the Jordanian engineering company to export 20 tonnes of a certain material that is used for the treatment of water.

4. Permission for the Jordanian al-Qabas Electrical Appliances and Trade Company to export 18,000 square meters of glass sheets to be used in hospital windows and elsewhere.

5. The request by the Bulgarian mission to supply Iraq with the following:

1. Cigarettes	100 tonnes
2. Syringes	1.5 million
3. Blankets	25,000
4. Cloth	70,000 meters
5. Men's suits	10,000
6. Skirts	10,000
7. Children's clothes	90,000
8. Blouses	90,000

The U.S. side objected to the provision of the cloth.

The spokesman added: The representatives of these three countries, citing what is allowed by the committee's regulations, have persistently rejected any request in the interest of any Iraqi party simply to increase the burden of the blockade that is imposed on our steadfast people.

The Sanctions Committee was formed to study and provide for the needs of the Iraqi citizen under the canopy of the economic blockade that is imposed on Iraq. Its purpose was not to ignore the urgent humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. These countries, through arbitrary and unethical methods, have done their best to close the only access for responding to Iraq's needs.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded his statement to INA by saying: Thus, the evil intentions of some of the countries which are involved in starving and besieging the Iraqi people have now been disclosed and are being daily confirmed, not to mention the exposure of all the false slogans they have been raising to deceive the people of the world, slogans which speak about the rights, freedom, and basic needs of the individual.

Memo to UN Protests More Airspace 'Violations'

JN1907090492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0624 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 19 Jul (INA)—Iraq lodged a new protest with the United Nations yesterday against U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations noted that these violations of Iraqi airspace from 7-15 July amounted to 160 air sorties.

He added that these violations centered over Zakho, Dahuk, (?Mosul), Tall 'Afar, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, 'Ayn Zalah, Dokan, Sinjar, and northern Rawandoz. The aircraft flew at various speeds and altitudes for surveillance and provocation.

Security Council 'Surrender' to U.S. Noted

JN2107100892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has stressed that the members of the Security Council and their countries have lost world respect because of their surrender to the aggressive U.S. policy, which insulted international laws and conventions and human rights. Mr. Ramadan was speaking during a meeting with Haydar Ibrahim, president of the Palestinian Workers Union, and the delegation accompanying him.

He said Security Council members attend the Council meetings only to sign anti-Iraq resolutions prepared in advance by the U.S. Administration. By so doing, these members proved they have no mind of their own, and that they implement U.S. policy under various methods of bribery and pressure.

The vice president has stressed that the Security Council policy brings shame on its members. He cited as an example the Council's refusal to export pencils and heart medicines to Iraq. He noted that the Security Council failed to introduce even a 1 percent change in its policy vis-a-vis the lifting of the unjust blockade against Iraq, although Iraq has met more than 90 percent of its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Ramadan noted world public opinion's denunciation of the aggressive U.S. policy against Iraq, and the exposure of U.S. control and domination over the Security Council member states through the continuation of the blockade, the violation of Iraqi airspace by American and British aircraft, the burning of crops, and the provocative demands for inspecting civilian buildings.

The president of the Palestinian Workers Union conveyed the greetings of Palestinian workers and citizens to leader President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that together with honorable Arabs, Palestinians take pride in the leader president's wise leadership, courageous positions, and firm pan-Arab principles. He emphasized that the people and leader of Iraq represent the Arabs' hope and strength for continuing jihad to attain Arab rights and build the free Arab nation. The meeting was attended by Fadil Mahmud Gharib, president of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

Paper Says U.S. Threats 'No Longer Effective'

JN2207100692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0806 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the American people are now aware of the secrets of the game. They have now realized how duped and in the dark they have been regarding the immense hatred harbored by the United States toward Iraq, the paper adds.

In an article published today, the paper notes that bribery scandals and stories of buying the U.S. hatred toward Iraq have become the order of the day. They have become part of sensational media programs. In this peculiar age, the world has seen the dangers posed by contemptible funds, which have been able to buy thrones and authority and to misrepresent mankind's will and wishes, the paper adds.

The paper affirms that Iraq's rejection of the U.S. blackmail is not prompted by a good knowledge of this administration and of its policies, but rather by the fact that the parties which now understand Iraq and its position are steadily increasing.

The paper urges the U.S. Administration to realize that the time is now late, and that it must retreat instead of showing intransigence and escalating its hostile practices, which have reached the extent of targeting national sovereignty.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Iraq is willing to invite specialists in the nuclear, chemical, missile, and biological fields from nonaligned countries, neutral members of the Security Council, or other world states to visit and inspect the Ministry premises and see what it contains to ascertain that there is nothing inside the premises, as is claimed by the Special Commission.

The paper says that the United States is no longer a threat as it used to be, and that the issuance of strongly worded statements is no longer effective.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When the United States recruited all leaders of evil and directed its antennas and waves toward Iraq to contain its feelings and influence its ideas, its effort proved to be useless. Would it then achieve any result, now that it is incapable of mobilizing a single non-English speaking soldier and of dispatching a single non-Zionist tank in the direction of Iraq?

The paper affirms that the attempt to humiliate Iraq is no longer easy and that the brief and efficiently charged threats will not fool any Iraqi child.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The failure to heed the U.S. conduct could induce the United States to show further disregard and arrogance. Allowing the inspection team's scoundrels to have access to the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation might cause them to seek access to people's homes and private bedrooms.

Ba'th Party Official on 'Critical Circumstances'

JN1907193992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said: The difficult, critical circumstances being experienced by our dear Iraq and our struggling party have sorted out the stands of the world surrounding us and clearly revealed our enemies and those who are hiding behind false claims.

Speaking at a meeting with comrade members of the senior cadre of the party's central Euphrates and southern organizations, comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim added: What happened has made us more determined to pursue struggle and stand firmly and defiantly in the face of all forces of injustice and vileness which harbor evil intentions toward our country and people.

The deputy secretary of the Iraq Command went on to say: The lofty march and great gains achieved by the party throughout the stages of its sacred struggle are appreciated only by those who have experienced every moment of the party's jihad and sacrifices, and those who carry the concerns and objectives of the nation within their hearts and consciences, as well as those who give precedence to their nation's interests over any transient objectives.

Those people, along with all the noble people of the nation, will find that whatever their sacrifices, they have still not fully performed their duties to their homeland, nation, and objectives. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Radio Condemns Regime Actions Against UN

'Intimidation' of UN Workers Denounced

NC1907181192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Statement issued by Fu'ad Ma'sum, chairman of the Council of Ministers in Iraqi Kurdistan, 18 July]

[Text] We denounce attempts to intimidate the employees of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations operating in Iraqi Kurdistan. Our government is seeking to unravel the threads of the conspiracy directed against Iraqi Kurdistan's people just as it targets the employees in question. The criminals will get their legal punishment in court.

[signed] Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, chairman of the Council of Ministers in Iraqi Kurdistan

[dated] 18 July 1992.

Attacks Cannot Change 'Inevitable Fate'

NC2007203692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1711 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Despite its retreats, failures, setbacks, and defeats following the second Gulf war, the Iraqi regime is still hatching conspiracies and plots to undermine the just cause of our Kurdish people. From time to time, mercenaries and agents of the regime explode bombs or open fire against officials of UN humanitarian relief organizations and UN policemen who come to Kurdistan to help our Kurdish people. Through these actions, the regime is hoping to create an atmosphere of anarchy in Kurdistan, hamper relief operations, and subsequently undermine the legitimacy achieved by our Kurdish people's just issue in international organizations.

It is true that the actions being carried out by the Iraqi regime in Kurdistan are inhuman and immoral, but it must be said that they are consistent with the bloody record of this regime, which has committed terrorism and murder over the years against the Iraqi people [words indistinct], and attacked the Arab state of Kuwait, killing thousands, plundering property, and violating honor as a token of its gratitude to Kuwait for the generosity it showed toward Iraq during its losing war against Iran. The dictatorial regime has tried all means of killing and destruction against the Kurdish people, but this has been useless and has failed to shake the determination of our Kurdish people. Our people continued to resist oppression, believing in the justness of their cause. The Iraqi regime is alarmed as it sees the splendid success of the democratic experiment in Kurdistan, which disappointed enemies and pleased friends. Humanity has cursed this regime and given its president the title of dictator as a legitimate credit that no one else in the world deserves. [passage omitted]

If the regime thinks that exploding bombs here and there against the humanitarian organizations in Kurdistan will rescue it from its inevitable fate it will be disappointed. These inhuman and immoral actions will only increase the determination of international legitimacy and the international community to support the cause of our Kurdish people and provide aid to them until the dictatorship nightmare ends.

Radio Urges Pressure on Regime

NC2107191292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1714 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] In a new crime the regime perpetrated yesterday—to add to the series of its other crimes—against the sons of our people and international officials working in Kurdistan and offering humanitarian services to the

people and refugees in the villages, and with the objective of terrorizing these officials and making them leave Kurdistan, at 0200 yesterday some mercenary agents belonging to the security organs and intelligence blew up a car belonging to UN employees. It was parked next to the UN headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah. The explosion injured two officials and damaged the car.

While we condemn the regime's cowardly act and new crime, added to the series of its other crimes, we call on all international organizations to put pressure on the Baghdad (?regime) to stop it from committing such crimes. We also call for keeping an eye on agents, [word indistinct] and suspect people and referring them to the justice system to get the punishment they deserve.

Regime Allegedly Set Up Terrorist Cells in Kuwait

NC2107155692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] An opposition paper has affirmed that the outcast tyrant regime has established special cells to carry out explosions and assassinate prominent Gulf figures. AL-MAWQIF newspaper, organ of the Islamic al-Da'wah Party, said in its latest issue that mercenaries of the outcast regime are currently operating in Kuwait to spread terror among Kuwaitis and to undermine security in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

The Paris-based MIDDLE EAST CONFIDENTIAL publication has said that the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn has established a sabotage network in Kuwait to carry out terrorist operations.

It is known that the Kuwaiti authorities have recently captured a smuggling network consisting of a number of agents of the outcast regime. The network members admitted carrying out a number of sabotage operations and explosions in Kuwait. Some 240 bombs and other documents were found in their possession, confirming the network's link with the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Congratulates New Afghan President

JN2207102092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his assumption of power. The cable reads:

On the occasion of your assumption of power, it pleases me to extend to you, in my name and on behalf of the Iraqi people, our heartfelt congratulations, wishing you and the friendly Muslim Afghan people the realization of your aspirations for independence and national unity under the canopy of the principles governing Islamic brotherhood and the Nonaligned Movement. I wish you and the Afghan people continued pride and prosperity.

Saddam Cables Condolences to King Husayn

JN2107124792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of condolences to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the death of al-Sharif Rakan Ghazi Nasir following a regrettable incident. The cable reads:

We have learned with sorrow of the death of Rakan Ghazi Nasir following a regrettable incident. Offering profound condolences to your majesty, we beseech God Almighty to embrace the deceased with His mercy, grant you and the deceased's noble family patience and solace, and to spare the fraternal Arab people in Jordan any harm. To God we belong and to him is our return. Peace be upon you.

Work on Drinking Water Project in South Started

JN1907171592 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—Upon the order of President Saddam Husayn, the Military Industry Commission has started work to implement river of the leader project that supplies al-Basrah, al- Nasiriyah, and Suq al-Shuyukh with drinking water.

Many ministries besides a number of companies of the private and socialist sectors will take part in this big project which is supervised by President Husayn's adviser General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Director-General of al-Faw Department of the Military Industry Commission Engineer Ahmad Isma'il told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) that a high committee was formed to implement the project which is in appreciation of al-Basrah steadfastness in the face of the aggression.

He added that the commission is headed by Brigadier Nizar Jum'ah al-Qassar from the Military Industry Commission besides representatives from ministries of oil, agriculture and irrigation and the Water and Sewerage Department.

Mr. Isma'il went on to say that a large number of engineers and technicians with hundreds of various machinery at their disposal have embarked on digging 229-km-long part of the canal and lining it with concrete.

He indicated that work now is near completion on building a siphon beneath al-Gharraf al-Jadid River in the provincial city of al-Nasiriyah.

Engineer Ahmad Isma'il said that the 300-metre-long and nine-metre-deep siphon comprises four steel pipes each with a 1.660-mm diameter, adding that the canal of the project will be lined with a 100-mm concrete layer with a slope of 80-mm per kilometer to secure the smooth flow of water.

Head of the project, engineer 'Adil 'Abd-al-Mun'im told INA that all districts of al-Basrah Province will be

supplied with drinking water including Shuqybah, al-Harithah, Qarmat 'Ali, Safwan, Umm Qasr, al-Zumayr and Abu al-Khasib.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im went on to say that the major canal of the project will branch into two courses one to al-Nasiriyah and the other to Suq al-Shuyukh district to meet the need of people there for drinking water.

He added that engineering teams of the companies of the Ministry of Housing and Construction, al-Faw Company of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and al-Faw department have started work on five sites along the project, saying that they work round the clock to complete the project within the set ceiling of eight months.

Saddam Rewards Workers on River Project

JN2007184292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered a reward of 25 million dinars for workers on the leader Saddam Husayn river project—both staff of the Military Industrialization Organization and of support companies taking part in the project. The reward comes in recognition of their outstanding efforts and great sacrifices in the implementation of this giant project. This was announced to INA by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic, supervisor of the industry and oil sectors, and supervisor of the commission implementing the leader Saddam Husayn river project.

He said the president's generous donation reflects his noble concern for, and unlimited support of his creative sons in the new construction movement, especially the mujahidin of the Military Industrialization Organization, who cut time short and worked day and night to rebuild great Iraq despite difficulties and harsh circumstances.

Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan said that the advanced phases accomplished within this major project clearly prove the absolute faith and self-confidence to overcome all the difficult circumstances being experienced by great Iraq, as it faces the most vicious and unjust blockade imposed by the oppressive enemies against the women and children of Iraq. He said the unjust blockade will wear out, with God's help, and that great Iraq will enjoy permanent victory and pride.

Rabin Returns From Cairo Talks With Mubarak

TA2107192992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned home from Cairo at 1900 [1600 GMT] tonight after talks with President Mubarak. The meeting with Mubarak was tete-a-tete and lasted over one and a half hours. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Rabin Visit

TA2107203292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Interview with Communications and Police Minister Moshe Shahal by announcer Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the television studio in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] [Yavin] Good evening to you, Minister Shahal. Former Foreign Minister David Levi says that the present government's declarations and Rabin's statements in Egypt are tantamount to selling Israel's political merchandise at half price.

[Shahal] I am sorry that David Levi has not transcended himself and was critical where he should not have been. I believe that we all, the entire political spectrum and all Israeli citizens, should welcome the emergence from the deadlock in which Israel had found itself during Yitzhaq Shamir's term as prime minister. I believe that the present government's basic guidelines and the remarks made on the eve of elections are carried out to the letter, regardless of the so-called price involved in the visit to Egypt. It should be remembered that Rabin has served as prime minister for only a week now, but during this same week Baker initiated a visit to Israel and Mubarak invited Rabin for a visit, after six years of absence of such a meeting with the Israeli prime minister. We follow the basic guidelines whose main feature is a corrected order of priorities.

[Sukenik] Still, Rabin met with Mubarak, and the Egyptian president, as we just heard, said: Israel's move on settlements—is good, but not enough; canceling the Arab boycott in return for a freeze of settlements—we will wait and see. Namely, there are no commitments or results yet, but the merchandise was delivered at half price already.

[Shahal] First, the present Israeli Government has its order of priorities regardless of what is happening around us. [passage omitted]

We believe that the national order of priorities requires a change which we have effected. When we approach our negotiating partners now we meet with greater understanding and sympathy, with warmth and appreciation for our serious position. I believe that the main change which Mr. Rabin represents is a serious approach, aimed at holding practical negotiations with an emphasis on maintaining Israel's security and interests. We have declared that we do not want to make demonstrative moves or undertake unnecessary, useless construction. Still, we will insist on the key points which are important to us in any negotiations. It seems to me that this is a clear matter which gains the understanding and appreciation of both the Americans and the Arab side, judging from President Mubarak's remarks at least. [passage omitted]

[Yavin] The prime minister rushed to meet Mubarak in Cairo. Mubarak said he will come when the time is right, when he feels like it. Do you attach importance to this, or is this a mere formality?

[Shahal] I spoke with the prime minister after he landed in Israel, before I came to this studio. I can categorically state that the visit was excellent, a matter-of-fact visit which reflected understanding and a practical approach. This does not mean that there are no disagreements, nor does it mean that the negotiations are over. In my opinion, Mr. Rabin is moving correctly, in the right direction, while setting clear goals to himself. [passage omitted]

Likud Critical of Rabin 'Concession'

TA2107193792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The Likud has expressed disappointment with the results of Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Egypt. The Likud's spokesman says that Rabin made another concession there which may result in the transfer of the peace talks from Rome to Cairo. According to the Likud, this concession has entailed further Arab intransigence: Mubarak's refusal to arrive in Israel.

Mubarak Adviser Discusses Talks

TA2207062992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Cairo-based correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, yesterday told DAVAR that the Egyptians have known, ever since the beginning of the political negotiations last October, that any efforts made during a Likud government would be a waste of time. With the establishment of a new, Labor-led government in Israel, the Egyptians feel that a new atmosphere of trust between the two countries has been established, and that Israel is now a partner ready to promote the peace negotiations in a businesslike fashion. "Now we feel more confident that we can reach an accord on the basics of serious negotiations. The feeling that the negotiations are serious will now prevail. People will give them importance and priority, because everyone will now work on the assumption that real progress must be achieved in the talks," said al-Baz.

Al-Baz asserted that all the Arab parties seriously wish to promote the negotiations, although some of their terms do not coincide with those of Israel. He added, however,

that a different atmosphere, one of quality, has emerged (in the wake of the political upheaval in Israel), in which every side feels its partners are indeed eager to reach an agreement.

Al-Baz said Israel will eventually have to stop all settlement in the territories, although Egypt does not expect that to happen overnight. He noted that a settlement halt is an important confidence-building step vis-a-vis the Palestinians. He listed additional steps concerning the Palestinians that the Egyptian Government will demand from the Rabin government: the release of detainees and the closure of detention camps, such as Qezi'ot and Nafha; easing the Arab residents' tax burden; and discontinuing the use of collective punishment. Al-Baz noted that Syria is ready to reach an arrangement with Israel, provided it is comprehensive.

In reply to questions from other reporters, al-Baz said that despite the improved atmosphere in the wake of the political turnabout in Israel, there are still serious difficulties related to negotiations, and the sides should refrain from entertaining exaggerated hopes. He noted, however, that all the parties, including Egypt, will now make a sincere effort to solve all the tough problems "with an open mind," with a higher degree of mutual trust, and with the feeling that everything is open to negotiation and that a successful conclusion of the negotiations is possible. Al-Baz noted that the Rabin-Mubarak meeting paved the way for various official Egyptian visits to Israel. He said that the Egyptian Government will take advantage of its contacts with the Israeli Government to persuade the latter to withdraw from the territories. He claimed that "tangible results of the improved atmosphere between the two countries" will be felt in the political process within a few weeks. "We believe that the bilateral and multilateral negotiations will make better progress because there is consent on how to achieve it."

Al-Baz asserted that Rabin had relayed no message to President al-Asad through President Mubarak. He said Rabin had apprised Mubarak of his new government's policies and of his outlook on the Syrian question and the issue of settlements. In an attempt to draw the Syrian and Israeli stands closer, Mubarak reviewed his own outlook on the issues of Syria and the political negotiations.

Rabin, Mubarak Discuss Peace Talks

TA2207090992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] "The Syrians want to reach an arrangement with Israel," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in their private summit meeting. Rabin said the negotiations with Syria must be direct and that the topic of discussion must be peace, not the Golan Heights. Rabin added that he expects some kind of Syrian gesture to prove Syria indeed wants peace. During their meeting, Rabin invited Mubarak to visit Israel. The Egyptian president accepted the invitation in principle but did not set a date for the visit. Aboard an Air Force plane on his way back from Cairo, Rabin said that he was pleased with the meeting, that the atmosphere was excellent, and that he considers it "a breakthrough." It should be pointed out that Jerusalem did not speak of a breakthrough with regard to the talks with Baker. Rabin's statement, therefore, may be important.

In the wake of the Rabin-Mubarak summit, sources in Cairo said the Arab boycott would not be lifted for the time being and noted that Saudi Arabia would not invest large sums of money to accelerate economic development in the territories. Knowledgeable sources in Cairo noted that the importance of the meeting lies mainly in the fact that Israel reopened its channel of communications with the Arab world via Egypt, but that no practical progress should be expected any time soon on the issues of vital importance to Israel.

Mubarak asked Rabin to stop differentiating between political and security settlements, saying that such a differentiation is perceived in Syria as an Israeli declaration that it will not withdraw from the Golan Heights. Mubarak warned Rabin that Syria might undermine the peace process if it is pushed into a corner. The two men agreed that Egypt would serve as a channel for relaying messages between Jerusalem and Damascus to prevent any misunderstandings. At the same time, Rabin reiterated to Mubarak that he prefers to promote the talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, because they are the crux of the conflict. In any case, Rabin said, the talks with the Palestinians are about the interim period, while the talks with Syria would be about the permanent arrangements, which are to be coordinated with the talks about a permanent settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Rabin reviewed Israel's intentions to use massive aid from Saudi Arabia and the oil states to develop the economy in the territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip. President Mubarak countered that such a development should not be expected any time soon, because of the tension between Saudi Arabia and the PLO. The Egyptian president advised Rabin to curb rather than expand Jordan's role in the political process if he wants to gain Saudi Arabia's friendship. Rabin replied that Jordan's growing role in the political process is an important political stepping stone for many reasons.

Rabin told Mubarak that although he will not cancel the Madrid framework, its emphasis should be changed to give priority to the bilateral tracks over the multilateral ones. Commenting on the bilateral track, President Mubarak counselled Rabin not to drive the Palestinians to exaggerated cooperation with Jordan because of their turbulent past, and he said that Egypt would be willing to offer guidance to the Palestinians just as it did in the Washington talks.

Rabin and Mubarak differed on this point, as well as on Egypt's proposal that the Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem should be administered by a pan-Islamic body. Rabin said he did not want to impair Jordan's status on the al-Aqsa grounds. President Mubarak believes Rabin exaggerates King Husayn's importance in the Palestinian context, at a time when the real key lies in President al-Asad's hands. He thinks an Israeli-Syrian rapprochement is better than a rapprochement with Jordan because, among other reasons, of Syria's influence in Lebanon. Mubarak mentioned King Husayn's latest trip to Damascus to get al-Asad's approval for his positions to illustrate that point.

Regarding the nuclear threat in the Middle East, Rabin said that real peace arrangements should be promoted to enable all the countries in the region, rather than the United Nations, to jointly control nuclear installations.

Rabin Aide Denies Change in Stance on Golan

TA2107174492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Shim'on Sheves, the Prime Minister's Office director, denies that Israel has relayed a message to President al-Asad through Secretary Baker. His denial came in the wake of reports to this effect that were published this morning.

According to Shim'on Sheves, Rabin's position on the Golan Heights issues has not changed, and Baker was told that while Israel would not leave the Golan even in the framework of a peace arrangement, this was not to say that it means to cling to every inch of it.

Bank of Israel Governor on Loan Guarantees

TA2107072892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] You participated in yesterday's meeting with James Baker in which the loan guarantees were discussed. Did you get the impression that we will indeed get them?

[Frenkel] My impression is that it was a very businesslike discussion. Although it was clear to all those present that getting the guarantees is part of a far larger issue which is intertwined with political aspects, we only concerned ourselves with the economic aspects. It should be pointed out that getting the guarantees is only the first phase in a far more definite program. After all, what really matters is what we do with the guarantees or, in other words, our economic policy.

[Einstein] We will yet get to that. We know the U.S. demands in the political sphere concern a settlement freeze. Do the Americans also have economic demands which we will have to meet even before we get the guarantees?

[Frenkel] I would like to stress that their demands are actually our own. Everybody knows that borrowing money abroad is only a first step, which results in the government acquiring a larger debt. This in itself is not what we aspire to. What really matters is what we do, what our policy is, and how we take advantage of and create the right economic climate to encourage economic growth and immigrant absorption.

Yesterday's discussion revolved around the nature of the measures to be taken with regard to the budget's structure and economic reforms. Therefore, I would not describe the discussion in terms of U. S. versus Israeli demands, but as a businesslike debate about the type of economic structure and policy that we want and must embrace at this point in time.

[Einstein] We hear that you did not just discuss objectives, but rather raised specific issues. James Baker is quoted as having told you to sell El Al.

[Frenkel] Definitely. Look, there comes a point in such deliberations when one must stop making generalizations, speeches, and declarations of intent. When we talk about changing priorities, this calls for specific changes in the state budget. This means allocating more funds to certain items, such as infrastructure, and cutting back on others; this means a taxation system that encourages the business sector.

Privatization is an abstract word, while we must speak in unambiguous terms. For instance, you mentioned El Al. This poses a problem for us: how to promote the privatization process on the one hand and uphold the country's strategic assets on the other. These are very complex issues, but there is no question that at some point we must get down to concrete details.

[Einstein] Does the attainment of the objectives you discussed call for the implementation of a far-reaching economic program, or are we already on such a course and must simply pursue it?

[Frenkel] Priorities are changed in practice by considerably expanding investment in infrastructure and accelerating the pace of reforms and by cutbacks. In other words, it is not just a matter of steering a course but making certain adjustments. On the other hand, we are not talking about a quick fix but about a multiyear program. After all, immigrant absorption, economic growth, and all other economic processes aimed at encouraging investment call for long-term planning. Hence, the Israeli request for loan guarantees consisted of two points: the amount requested and, what is no less important, over what period of time. We stressed this point—that the commitment should be multiannual—over and over again, so that the investor who is called upon to make a decision today should know that Israel has a reliable plan down the line.

[Einstein] In what framework will the economic deliberations with the United States be pursued?

[Frenkel] First, we will continue the deliberations in Israel. Second, in the past we have had working groups made up of Israeli and U.S. professionals. I believe these groups will resume their meetings very shortly at a more intense pace, so that we may translate the objectives we discussed into more concrete terms.

Of course, one must understand that the real work must be done here, in Israel. Soon we will start discussing the state budget. In the first week of September, the government will have to decide on a new budget, and therein the real test will lie. If we can demonstrate and convince ourselves that we are definitely capable of significantly cutting back or allocating considerable more funds to once unthinkable items, then we will pass the test.

No Reaction to Bush Arms Control Initiative

TA2007142492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel will not react soon to U.S. President George Bush's new disarmament initiative, senior Israeli elements believe. According to these elements, the details of the initiative are currently being examined by the professional levels of the Defense Ministry (which is responsible for all arms control issues) and the Foreign Ministry, which will work out recommendations for the political echelons. [passage omitted]

Israeli elements said yesterday that one should not rush to react to the new initiative, since its timing is connected with the U.S. election campaign. According to them, "Several countries will have to consider the initiative, and we will have to react to it in the future as an official U.S. initiative," but it is the peace process, the autonomy issue, and the request for guarantees, rather than arms control, which feature at the center of the political dealings currently.

The Israeli elements emphasized that the Bush initiative was formulated in a general manner, and there was no direct U.S. appeal to Israel on the matter. [passage omitted]

Peres Accepts Kozyrev Invitation To Moscow

TA2107163792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has invited Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to visit Moscow. The invitation was extended by Aleksandr Bovin, Russia's ambassador in Israel, who called on Mr. Peres to extend his greetings on Peres' appointment. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Mr. Peres accepted the invitation and the date for the visit and its agenda will be worked out soon.

Moving Mobile Homes In Territories Banned

TA2207091692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] A total ban on moving mobile homes into the territories, taking them beyond the Green Line, or even moving them from their current sites in the territories was issued at the beginning of the week by the Prime Minister's Office, the Defense Ministry, and the Construction and Housing Ministry.

Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, confirmed last night that the ban is designed to prevent the establishment of any new settlements or the expansion of existing ones.

An agreement reached by the bureaus of the defense minister and the construction minister stipulates that trailers and mobile homes purchased by the Construction Ministry during Ari'el Sharon's tenure will remain in storage and will not be placed in the territories.

Senior sources in the Construction and Housing Ministry yesterday told DAVAR that the decision reached by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer stipulates that the removal of trailers and mobile homes from storage requires the approval and personal signature of the housing and construction minister, while their placement anywhere in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip requires the approval and personal signature of the prime minister and defense minister.

Those strict orders have been relayed to all the pertinent bodies. Orders have also been issued to the Army and Israel Police to prevent any movement of trailers and mobile homes in the territories without the approval of the incumbent regional commands and the explicit approval of the Defense Ministry or the Construction and Housing Ministry.

Source Claims 'Arafat To Dismantle 'Force 17'

TA2107112192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jul 92 p 5

[Report by Cairo correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Text] A Palestinian source in Cairo has revealed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has decided to disband "Force 17" and to dismiss Abu-al-Tayyib [Muhammad al-Natur], the organization's military head, who was responsible for Palestinian military activity in the territories.

Our Cairo correspondent points out that during 'Arafat's latest stay in Jordan, while recuperating from head surgery, rumors abounded regarding his plan to disband "Force 17" in a bid to renew the official dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

"Force 17," the Fatah organization's elite unit, was established at the beginning of the 1970's and operated under the direct command of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The Palestinian source in Cairo revealed that on 'Arafat's instructions, the training camps and offices belonging to "Force 17" in Iraq and Libya have been closed down, its annual budget has been frozen, and its most senior officials either have been transferred to other positions or "retired."

The source said that the dismantling of "Force 17" is aimed at mollifying the United States and bringing about the resumption of its dialogue with the PLO and the inclusion of representatives from the Palestinian diaspora in the negotiations with Israel.

Palestinian Delegation To Meet 'Arafat in Amman

TA1907122292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 92 p. 15

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Mikhal Goldberg]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will leave on 21 July for Amman for consultations with Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders to prepare for the reopening of the negotiations in Rome.

The meeting in Amman was planned 10 days ago. At the meeting the delegation expects to establish a new Palestinian strategy for talks with the Rabin government.

The members of the delegation will meet 'Arafat again at the end of August, on the eve of their departure for the Rome talks, for a final briefing.

The Palestinian leaders are not trying to conceal the fact that they are about to meet with 'Arafat. According to them, they were not warned against another meeting with 'Arafat or PLO men after their previous meetings or during their investigation by the police. [passage omitted]

Law on Meetings With PLO 'Needs to be Amended'

TA1707195092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today that the law banning meetings with PLO personnel is unusual in the sphere of legislation in Israel and abroad, and its introduction was to be regretted.

In reply to our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov's question, the minister noted that he is opposed in principle to legislation attributing criminal culpability to defendants whose deeds involve no criminal intent. The police minister said the law needs to be amended in such a way that only encounters aimed at harming Israel's security would be banned.

Appointment Inspires No-Confidence Motion

TA2207093992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] At the instruction of spiritual leader Rabbi Schach, the United Torah Jewry faction this morning decided to submit a motion of no confidence in the Rabin government in light of Shulamit Aloni's appointment as education minister.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that Agudat Yisra'el's faction members tried very hard to block the move. Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Shapira even put off his return to Israel to prevent his faction from meeting in his absence. Nevertheless, at the end of feverish contacts that lasted through the night, the faction decided to submit a no-confidence motion. MK Menahem Porush told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he sanctioned the move. MK Avraham Ravitz emphasized that United Torah Jewry is thus disproving the rumors about contacts with Labor.

Labor Elects Knesset Faction, Coalition Head

TA2007150092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Labor's Knesset faction has elected Eli Dayan as the head of the faction and the coalition. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 23 Knesset members supported Dayan, while 19 supported Hagay Merom, and three abstained.

United Torah Jewry's Ravitz Replaces Peretz

TA2007143392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] At the opening of this afternoon's Knesset session, Avraham Ravitz was sworn in as a Knesset member [MK] on behalf of United Torah Jewry, in place of MK Yitzhaq Peretz who had resigned. Rabbi Ravitz told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that despite the demonstrated desire of some members in his faction to join the coalition, there are no practical negotiations with Labor at the moment.

Military-Civilian Merger in Territories Canceled

TA2007132892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] About a week after Yitzhaq Rabin entered the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry, the defense establishment decided to cancel a project begun during the term of former Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

This project aimed at bringing together, under the same roof, the military and Civil Administration elements responsible for routine security tasks in the territories.

The project, called "Time of Goodwill," was secretly introduced in Qalqilyah on a trial basis about two years ago. A lieutenant colonel named Shimshon was placed in charge of the project on behalf of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

After a while the defense establishment concluded that the project had succeeded, and deliberations began at the office of the deputy chief of staff, Major General Amnon Shahaq, on extending it to the Tulkarm District.

The project in Qalqilyah will be canceled now, and Lt. Col. Shimshon's appointment withdrawn. The lieutenant colonel will probably retire from the IDF in the near future.

It should be noted that the merger idea triggered an argument over turf at the time. Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, thought that the IDF should be in charge of the Civil Administration personnel, while Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories, claimed that Civil Administration personnel should be the paramount body in the area.

The disagreements were brought up with then Minister Arens, who decided that the IDF would be responsible for the actions of the joint body.

An element close to former Defense Minister Arens yesterday expressed his regret about the cancellation of the project, which proved that manpower could be saved through a merger of the two bodies.

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's confidants said he had not yet held substantive deliberations on the administration in the territories. They believe that Rabin will begin to handle this issue in the middle of the week, upon his return from Cairo where he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Chief of Staff Approves IDF Budget Cuts

TA2007150192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, last weekend approved planned cuts in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] arms' budgets called for by the IDF multiyear plan for 1993-97.

The updated draft of the multiyear plan calls for a 300-million shekel cut in the working plans, compared with the original multiyear plan prepared last year for 1991-95. The budget plan for the coming years was approved at the beginning of the month by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. Details of cuts the IDF is to make were given to the chief of staff for decision.

It has been decided that a 190-million shekel cut will be made in the 1992 IDF work plan. Areas from which an additional 160-million shekels can be cut this year, mostly to cover the REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] deficit, have not yet been located and are under discussion in the Defense Ministry and the General Staff.

After the cuts are made, the defense budget will sustain a framework of some 13.5 to 14 billion shekels annually, in addition to the U.S. and German aid.

The gaps between the IDF multiyear plan and its financial resources were revealed last year when it became apparent that the plan did not account for an unexpected rise in some costs. Also, there were changes in independent factors, such as devaluation rates.

The Budget Department, common to the IDF and the Defense Ministry, has conducted an examination of the budget's sources and the way the money is to be used in the coming year and has prepared a "budgetary outline" of the funds from foreign aid and the shekel budget. After the budgetary outline was approved, the Budget Department and the IDF's Planning Branch started reviewing possible cuts in the work plans.

The plan of cuts approved by Baraq last weekend means that central budgets will have to be reduced, such as loans and housing aid for career soldiers allocated from the defense budget. The rest of the cuts will be made in the various IDF components in proportion to their share of the budget.

Senior defense establishment sources said yesterday that the cuts in the updated multiyear work plan do not mean that the original plan was imperfect. They claimed that "the multiyear plan did not intend to make precise predictions regarding the sources of the budget or the way it is put to use. Its purpose is to serve as a starting point for the decisionmaking procedure on central issues such as manpower and progress on major projects. Deviating from the plans is a controllable process."

In the coming weeks, the work plans and the budgetary demands of the defense establishment will be presented in a discussion with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. The professional echelons are currently preparing the data.

The defense establishment is still demanding the rest of the 124-million shekel budget addition it was promised if the number of immigrants drops under 200,000 per year. The addition to the budget was discussed on 1 July, when the Finance Ministry agreed to allocate 80 million shekels for orders from the Israel Military Industries.

The defense establishment is demanding an additional 44 million shekels as well as another 22 million shekels to compensate for price hikes, thus making the budget correspond with current prices. The defense establishment's work plans assume that it will receive the full budget additions.

Soldier Killed, 3 Wounded in Security Zone Clash

TA2107151292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Report by military correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Excerpts] A grave incident took place in the security zone early this morning: An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed and three soldiers were wounded by terrorist gunfire in the Bayt Yahun area in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. The soldiers' families have been notified. This was announced by the IDF spokesman.

Gunfire from the west was directed at an IDF detail which was in the midst of an activity in the vicinity of the village of Bayt Yahun, close to the northern border of the security zone. The terrorists, who came in several squads, used light weapons, RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades], and LAW's [light antitank weapons]. The troops returned fire, but one IDF soldier was killed and three were wounded by the terrorists' gunfire. [passage omitted]

Around the same time—about 0500 [0200 GMT]—additional events took place: Three SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the same sector were attacked with mortar and light weapons. SLA troops returned fire, sustaining no casualties. IDF artillery fired at terrorist targets north of the security zone. Foreign news agencies reported that eight villages came under artillery fire and that at least five Lebanese were injured.

Around the same time and in the same sector, an explosive device was detonated near another IDF detail as it was moving through the area. In this incident, two IDF soldiers sustained very slight injuries.

The chief of staff and the Northern Command commander visited the scene and conducted a preliminary debriefing of the troops. The debriefing will continue in the coming days.

It should be noted that according to military sources, terrorist activities against the security zone have been stepped up in recent days.

Hizballah in south Lebanon, which is known for its vehement opposition to the peace process, has assumed responsibility for the most recent attack.

King, Baker Hold Closed Meeting Before Talks

JN2107112092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a closed meeting at the Raghadan Palace at noon today. The meeting preceded the official talks between the Jordanian side, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the American side, headed by Mr. Baker. The two sides exchanged views on the peace process and evaluated the latest Middle East developments and their implications on the peace process.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the foreign minister, and the head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks. On the American side, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying Mr. Baker, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

Joint Press Conference

JN2107174992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 92

["Proceedings" of a joint press conference held by Jordan's King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 21 July—recorded—press conference conducted in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [King Husayn] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure for me to welcome a very dear friend once again to Amman, the secretary of state, and to welcome you all and to have this opportunity to speak to you, and to say that our talks went extremely well, as they do between old friends, and particularly at this time—an interesting time in terms of all the changes that have occurred in the world, but more so in our part of the world of late.

I spoke to some of our friends who asked me about my view on recent developments in the immediate region, and I would like to repeat that, for example, we saw the Israeli electorates' choice of a change as one indicating an interest in seizing this historic moment, crucial moment, to finally and hopefully achieve progress and achieve results in bringing an end to the long suffering for all concerned on either side of the divide—Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians, Arabs—by possibly, God willing, succeeding in achieving the goal that we have set ourselves for a long period of time, of establishing a just and durable peace, the kind of peace that future generations can accept, live with, and protect. And one that brings the children of Abraham together again in this region, the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions.

I believe that we are on the verge of a genuine, renewed effort to see progress towards peace. Hopefully, what has been set on track will now accelerate towards a very dear objective. I am referring obviously to the peace process. So the secretary's visit at this time is most welcome, and we know, and we knew throughout, of his enthusiasm and commitment to the cause of a just and durable peace here in this area; an end to the nightmare that has been with us for far too long, and to the suffering of people. I welcome you as a dear friend and I'll hand over to you, sir.

[Baker] Thank you Your Majesty, and thank you for welcoming us, welcoming my colleagues and myself at this time. I think it's an important time for us to be in the region. I am very, very pleased to be back in Amman, and I am particularly pleased to have had the opportunity to spend the time that we've spent today discussing the status of the peace process and how we might move it forward in a positive direction. You alluded to the fact that there is a change in the leadership in Israel. There is indeed, and we think that a change should offer some opportunity for positive forward movement in this process in which we are together engaged. A search for peace in this region that so badly needs it, and so rightly deserves it.

I would like to think that there are opportunities now that should be taken advantage of, and they will be taken advantage of. I found a sense of that in my discussions today with his majesty. As those of you who are travelling with us know, I found a sense of that yesterday in discussions with Israelis and with Palestinians. I would hope that particularly the bilateral discussions could resume, and resume early. I think the suggestion of the prime minister of Israel that these discussions be relatively continuous, rather than interrupted periodically as much as they have been in the past, is a good suggestion.

Your Majesty, I look forward to continuing to work very closely with you, as we have in the past, to advance peace in this region, and I thank you very much for your hospitality.

[Unidentified reporter] What is going on in the Middle East suggests that the main concern is giving Israel the loan guarantees. So, what will happen if you do that concerning the Israeli guarantees to follow up the peace process and end with giving the Palestinians right of self-determination? This is my first question, if you don't mind.

[Baker] Let me answer one at a time, because I will forget the first one by the time you finish with the second. We spoke with the new Israeli Government concerning loan guarantees. It is anticipated that the new prime minister will visit Washington, or perhaps some other spot in the United States and meet with President Bush at an early date in August. We do not as yet have a final date. When they get together, it is our hope, of course, that they will find a way to reach agreement on this matter. That agreement has not yet been concluded, although we have had some very extensive and, I think, some productive discussions with the new Israeli leadership.

There appears to be an entirely different approach on the part of this Israeli Government toward the issue of settlements in the territories. Settlements in the territories have never been considered to be positive for peace. As far as the policy position of the United States is concerned, indeed, we have characterized them as obstacles to peace. So, perhaps, with this new attitude and

approach toward settlements on the part of the new Israeli Government, we can find some way to reach agreement respecting the provision to absorb assistance for Jewish immigrants migrating to Israel—a principle that the United States has always strongly supported. Now your second question.

[Reporter] My second question is: Why you are accusing Jordan of violating the sanctions while we don't hear any accusations towards the other countries neighboring Iraq? Thank you.

[Baker] Well, first of all, it is not a case of accusation. There has been, in our view, some leakage across the border, perhaps even in both directions. Let me say, let me hasten, however, to tell you what I've just told his majesty, and that is, that in recent days and weeks we see much stronger and more effective sanctions enforcement. We see reduced leakage of goods and products across the Jordanian-Iraqi border. This is not to say that there has not been in the past some leakage across other borders, because there has been. But, in our opinion, it has not risen to the magnitude of that here. But, again, let me say that in recent days and weeks we've seen striking improvement in sanctions enforcement.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you said in your introductory remarks that this is a key time in the peace process here. It's widely rumored in Washington that Secretary Baker will soon be leaving the State Department and moving to a different job at the White House, what impact do you think that will have on the peace process, particularly at this time?

[Husayn] Well, first of all, we are talking about rumors again, and I think we have suffered so much from rumors and the spreading of rumors in this region and the world. I really can't say anything or add anything. I don't think this has come up as imminent.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, also rumors, maybe I shouldn't listen to rumors, but it says that your invitation to the Palestinians to go to Washington to discuss the self-rule issue before the Rome peace talks could be singling out Palestinians over there in Washington. The question is, why not discuss the self-rule within the framework of the bilaterals?

[Baker] Well, first of all, the report that you are alluding to is erroneous, if it reports that I have suggested the Palestinians should come to Washington for some sort of meeting or dialogue apart from the regular Madrid conference format bilaterals, because we have not suggested that. There was some suggestion that perhaps the bilaterals should reconvene if possible, as soon as the parties would be ready to do so, taking advantage of the possible opportunities to inject new momentum into the peace process. The United States' position is that we are prepared to co-host this process with Russia in any location the parties agree upon. They agreed for a while on Washington, then they determined that they wanted to go to Rome. We are happy with either venue. It's just important in our view that there be a reconvening of the bilaterals fairly promptly to take advantage of the possible momentum that could be engendered by the change in government in Israel.

[Reporter] The United States considers the Jewish settlements in Israel, in the occupied territories, as an obstacle to peace. Does the United States differentiate between political settlements and security settlements?

[Baker] No, we make no differentiation when we say settlements are obstacles to peace.

[Husayn] Can I help?

[Reporter] In the last few statements by yourself and members of the administration, it seems you have been dropping mention of [Resolutions] 242 and 338 as the basis for a solution. Is there a change of policy? Could you state your position on that, and whether parties to the peace process should indeed expect that the final outcome of the peace process should be the implementation of 242 and 338?

[Baker] Well, there is absolutely no change in policy. There is a desire in fact, I think, on the part of the Palestinians and the Israelis to whom we have talked—and you have his majesty here to give you Jordan's positions—that we move, and move promptly on the basis of the Madrid terms of reference and the Madrid format. The terms of reference for the Madrid process, or the process that we have all been engaged in recently, is that we seek a comprehensive settlement on the basis of 242 and 338. That happens to be our policy, and I think that's the approach that the parties to the peace process have all agreed to.

[Reporter] May I address this question to King Husayn, please?

[Husayn] Go ahead.

[Reporter] Sir, can I ask you first whether you can report to us that the United States has agreed to resume full U.S. assistance to Jordan in light of the secretary's comments on enforcement of the sanctions, and secondly, the United States and its allies, who were part of the coalition against Iraq last year, are considering once again the possibility of further enforcement action against Iraq to insist on compliance with UN sanctions. Is Jordan now prepared to join that coalition?

[Husayn] Jordan's position is clear. It has been explained time and again. You referred to sanctions and I would like to point out here that we respect, and have accepted, and adhere to these sanctions by the Security Council as a world body representing the will of the world, regardless of the fact that, over a long period of time within this entire region, within the Arab family, we had tried our best to encourage movement towards complimentarity. We didn't have a border with Iraq as such. We did not wish to see the borders introduced in the Arab world in the way they are. We were seeking the removal of iron curtains and Berlin Walls from our midst here in this region. It was a terrible disaster in this area a while ago.

We have tried our best, and whereas we stress the point that we are adhering, to the very best of our ability, to the Security Council resolutions, we continue to do whatever we can within the level of helping the people of Iraq regarding food and medicine, which is permitted under these resolutions. But our credibility is very important to us on all levels. And so whereas we will resist, and have resisted, putting that in question regarding sanction-busting, on the other hand, we are determined to make sure that nobody can point the finger at us and say that we are not living up to our word and our commitment. So I think that this is behind us, but I don't think that the secretary has given me any news of any change, at the moment, in policies towards us, and I think our friends in the media can help a lot by searching for the truth and maybe presenting it to public opinion both in the United States and elsewhere and maybe some obstacles could be overcome as a result.

[Baker] May I add, Your Majesty, to your answer to that question? Throughout, the prime minister outlined for us, a number of detailed steps that the Government of Jordan has taken on its own—not because of any request from us or anyone else—steps that we think have been responsible for the greater effectiveness of enforcement that we've seen in recent days and weeks to which I alluded. The prime minister also said that they were inviting, and would invite members of the press to various locations to observe and see for yourselves firsthand how these are working, and what has been done in an effort which we both support and share to get the word out with respect to the efforts Jordan is making regarding sanction enforcement.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Baker] The administration, as you know, some time ago suggested that the bilateral programs be resumed. We ran into some difficulties with Congress. We will work now assuming that this more effective regime continues—and we have no reason to believe it will not. We will work with Congress to see if we can reinstate those programs.

[Reporter] Your majesty can I follow up on Ralph's question, and this is a different matter concerning Iraq. The UN Security Council is considering military action if Saddam Husayn continues to defy the inspectors. Would you support UN Security Council military action in this regard?

[Husayn] Are you telling me that military action is imminent? That's news to me. In any event, I believe that as far as Iraq is concerned, I would like to make it abundantly clear that our concern has been, will be, will continue to be, for the Iraqi people, and for an end to this entire nightmare from which all of us have suffered.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, you made the point that you don't see a distinction between security settlements and what Mr. Rabin calls political settlements. And of course, you know by security he means Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the confrontation line in the Jordan Valley. Did you make that point to the Israelis? Did you get any satisfaction that the freeze applies every place because he used the word settlements for people living in Jerusalem, but taking your description, did they tell you that they would freeze Jewish inhabitation of their capital?

[Baker] Ralph, you've heard me in testimony, I mean Barry, excuse me. [laughter] God, what an error. Let me make one thing perfectly clear, that's not Ralph. We never make those mistakes. I think you've heard me testify that security installations are something that we view differently than settlements. So when I answered the question here, I was answering the question as it came to me which had to do with settlements. And under our policy, settlements are settlements. Security... [changes thought] 242, in our opinion, has ingredients that require considerations of Israel's security. And security installations are something that we distinguish from what you might call security settlements. OK? Political settlements versus security settlements. It's a different.... [changes thought] They have a different meaning, I think the Israelis do, when they use the term.

[Reporter] But, what, may we ask, would they have to tell you about the freeze?

[Baker] Well, you've asked me that question and you can stay tuned for the answer, as we move along here. I am not going to answer it today.

[Reporter] Now, in your tour in the Middle East, are you going to ask—and did you ask here in Jordan—for the Arabs to lift the boycott against Israel?

[Baker] The proposal that we made before was that if there was a complete freeze, or suspension, suspension, I think we said, of settlement activity by Israel, that we thought that the Arabs should consider an equivalent suspension of the boycott. We were able to obtain from President Mubarak and King Fahd at the time support for that proposal. However, when we communicated it to the Israelis, they were not interested. It is still a proposal that, we think, would be worth looking into and worth pursuing. I am obviously not going to answer for his majesty.

[Reporter] Now that there are reports, Your Majesty, that the Israelis have frozen settlements, at least for the time being, are you inclined to join in lifting the Arab boycott and taking other measures? And, would you urge your Arab colleagues to do the same?

[Husayn] I believe this matter is probably an Arab League matter, and it was handled as such before, and probably will be handled as such later on.

[Reporter] But, what would be your position in the Arab League on this matter? What would your view be of how the Arab League should handle this?

[Husayn] It's a position that will be made clear when we reach that point in the Arab League for whatever decision to be taken at the appropriate time. But, I hope, and I am here in the spirit of frankness and honesty to give you the very clear position that I have had over many years, and certainly is one now more than at any time in the past. I think that we

are at a historic moment, and we hope that we are moving towards the establishment of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. And if that is the case, this is only a small fraction, portion of the problem that obviously will be addressed appropriately at the appropriate time.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you feel that it is time for Arab confidence-building measures towards Israel?

[Husayn] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] Do you feel that it is time for Arab confidence-buildings measures towards Israel?

[Husayn] We are talking about a peace process and about its getting on once again and hopefully with vigor and with a real genuine effort that we are all prepared to take part in. And I think that many aspects of the problem will be dealt with. And obviously, this is where the course will be charted regarding every aspect of the problem.

[Reporter] Do you have any suggestions as to how the Arab states might reciprocate for the gesture made by Israel in limiting settlement activity?

[Husayn] I think this will have to wait until the process begins again, and then we can see what... [changes thought] where we are and where we are headed. But again, as far settlements are concerned, you obviously know our view regarding these settlements in the occupied Arab territories. And, well, we are still trying to figure out how we go from here. But there are promising signs, and we are very encouraged.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, did you mean to suggest earlier that the Middle East peace talks might resume in Washington rather than Rome?

[Baker] I didn't mean to say that they would resume in Washington rather than Rome. I was asked this question coming I think from an interview—from the press conference that Hanan 'Ashrawi did in Israel, where she mentioned the possibility of Washington. And I replied: We would be pleased to host the next round of bilaterals wherever the parties would agree they would sit down and meet.

[Reporter] I thought this was settled, are you saying it's reopened?

[Baker] Well, I am saying that I am reopening it. What I am saying is that if the parties decided they wanted to come to Washington, we'd be pleased to host it, cohost it with the Russians, in Washington. The reason we, the reason it was moved was because all parties could not agree to stay in Washington. They may still not be able to agree to stay in Washington. I do not know.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary. On the way over, you said that Israel has now made some concrete gestures towards peace and that it was time for the Arabs to do the same. Could you tell us exactly what in that regard you asked of King Husayn that might be useful, or effective, or appropriate at this time as a reciprocal gesture, that you have in mind?

[Baker] Well, I would not want to get into all of the details of our discussions—just as I can't with, at every stop. Let me say that I think that his majesty has already indicated to you here today that he, too, believes there may be a chance here—an opportunity—to provide some momentum to the peace process. You are not going to get momentum unless there is give-and-take and unless there is movement on both sides.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, is it true that your current mission to the Middle East is more a political campaign for the election of President Bush, I mean more than revitalizing the peace talks? And if so, how would describe your efficiency in undertaking both tasks?

[Baker, laughing] Look, it is not every day that you get the kind of change that has occurred in the government in Israel as a consequence of the last election. If I were undertaking this trip as a political matter, I do not think that I would have spent the better of part nine to 10 ten months a year or so ago, whenever it was, laying the basis for putting us in a position where we can move when there's a new opportunity presented for peace. And there really I think is a new opportunity presented here. That is why we are suggesting to all the parties that they reengage as quickly as possible and that they pick up on the suggestion of the prime minister of Israel that those discussions be continuous. We have also proposed that they come with concrete, specific proposals to table, and give their negotiators negotiating authority. Something, I might say, that his majesty has given his negotiators in the past. We have always found Jordan arriving at the table ready to negotiate in good faith.

[Reporter] We are hoping to get involved in the back. May I go back just a little bit.

[Husayn, laughing] You can't go any further back. [laughter]

[Reporter] You just said that Hanan 'Ashrawi gave a press conference in Israel. Does that indicate any change of U.S. policy on the status of Jerusalem?

[Baker] No. [laughter] I did not know where she gave the press conference. I just noted that while I was in Israel she gave a press conference. I didn't mean anything significant by that.

[Husayn] Thank you.

Buwayz on Possible Baker Meeting, al-Ta'if

NC2107125892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] At a news conference today at Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry], Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stressed that there are no new developments regarding a meeting between him and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker despite all the proposals made to hold one outside of Lebanon. He said that no one else can speak for Lebanon. He noted that whatever Baker would have proposed in a meeting can be conveyed through diplomatic channels.

He said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We hope that the United States and other friendly countries will deal with Lebanon in accordance with the norms governing international relations. Our insistence on holding the meeting in Lebanon shows that we can speak for ourselves. No one else can speak for Lebanon regarding its basic issues.

[Unidentified correspondent] How can the Lebanese issue be handled?

[Buwayz] It can be handled through traditional diplomatic channels.

[Correspondent] Are the reports about you meeting with Secretary Baker aboard a Lebanese ship true?

[Buwayz] I have said that several ideas were proposed but did not meet our requirements. If the visit takes place, we will welcome Secretary Baker and the meeting will be a new and positive symbol of our relations. If Secretary Baker does not visit us for logistical or other reasons, we will forgive him. [end recording]

Asked about implementing the al-Ta'if Accord, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] The Lebanese Government is committed to implementing the letter and spirit of the al-Ta'if Accord; this was outlined in the government statement. This is the policy the Lebanese Government is currently pursuing. The government is determined to rebuild its institutions and to assume its responsibilities when Syrian forces redeploy under the terms of the al-Ta'if Accord. This will enable the government to extend its authority throughout Lebanon, safeguard Lebanese territory, regain the land usurped by the Israelis, and establish and consolidate Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. [end recording]

Further Remarks

NC2207113492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] At a news conference today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said there is nothing new on the possibility of his meeting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is currently touring the region. He said: I have already expressed my views on the meeting.

Asked about the collection of light weapons, Buwayz said the government is determined to implement the letter and spirit of the al-Ta'if Accord. It is also set on assuming complete responsibility when Syrian forces are redeployed in late summer in accordance with the al-Ta'if Accord.

Asked about tomorrow's scheduled strike, Buwayz said that using democratic means to express views is part of the people's right to state their opinions on topical issues.

Time 'Not Right' To Collect Palestinian Weapons

NC2107121292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Minister of State Dr. Nazih al-Bizri has said that the time is not right to collect weapons from the Palestinians. He said we will collect weapons to secure the return of the refugees and the holding of elections. He added that light weapons will remain inside the Palestinian camps, around which the Army will remain. He said the resistance will prevent Israel's remaining on our land, no matter what.

Al-Bizri made these remarks when he received Milhim Karam, dean of the Journalists Association, who is visiting the south. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi, al-Sulh Sign Parliament Election Bill

NC2207113392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] This just in: President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh have signed the bill amending the parliamentary election law. It will become valid as soon as it is published in the official gazette.

Leaders Attend Funeral of Syrian President's Mother

NC2107170592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh attended the funeral of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's mother this evening. Prayers were said at al-Sayyidah Na'isah in al-Qurdahah. A number of ministers and spiritual leaders also attended the funeral.

The Chamber of Deputies postponed its scheduled session today until 1030 tomorrow because of the presence of a number of deputies in Syria for the funeral of the Syrian president's mother.

Samahah Returns From Kuwait; Agreement Signed

NC2107122092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah and his delegation returned to Beirut today after an official visit to Kuwait, during which he signed a media cooperation agreement between the two countries. Samahah also met high-ranking Kuwaiti officials, including the Kuwaiti amir.

Samahah described his visit to Kuwait as fruitful.

Areas in South Come Under Israeli Shelling

NC2107170092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The area of Wadi al-Akhdar is coming under sporadic artillery shelling from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah and Tallat al-Suwayda'. The shelling is reaching the hills of Jabal Safi, Mlita, and Sujud.

'Fierce' Clashes

NC2107192292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] It was reported from the south this evening that fierce clashes are taking place on the Bayt Yahun, Bra'shit, Haddathah, and 'Ayta al-Jabal fronts in which artillery and machine guns are being used. No additional information is available yet.

Overnight Shelling

NC2207045592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0 315 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Israeli artillery resumed its shelling of Wadi al-Akhdar, Jabal Safi Hill, Mlita, and Sujud in the south last night.

Army Deploying To Ensure Return of Refugees

NC2207060092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army has resumed redeploying in areas specified in the first stage of the plan to return displaced persons to their villages. The Army also reinforced its positions in Jubayl, Kasrawan, and al-Matn.

The Defense Ministry Information Department released a statement yesterday saying that exceptional security measures have been taken in certain towns and villages. Army units have been reinforced, particularly around the Damascus highway, and additional units have been deployed in Suq al-Gharb, 'Alayh, and Bhamdun. Army units have started to patrol these areas. [passage omitted]

Secretary of State Baker Arrives in Damascus

JN2107163192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 21 Jul (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Damascus this evening as part of a tour of the Middle East.

Talks With al-Shar'; Djerejian Attends

JN2207122192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a round of talks this morning. Edward Djerejian, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross attended the talks. They discussed the peace process and regional developments as well as bilateral ties. Secretary Baker reiterated to Mr. al-Shar' a continuing U.S. abidance by Washington's initiative which underpinned the Madrid peace conference, both in terms of the comprehensiveness of a settlement and the point of reference for a settlement being UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. Mr. Baker also reaffirmed that the U.S. position regarding the loan guarantees remains unchanged. He said the approval of the loan guarantees was linked to an end to security as well as political settlements regardless of whether they are in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, or Gaza. [passage omitted]

Baker Departs 22 Jul

JN2207103192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Damascus this morning following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross bade him farewell at Damascus International Airport.

Afghanistan

Warring Factions in Kabul Agree To Cease-Fire

BK2107120892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 21 (AFP)—Warring Afghan factions agreed to a cease-fire Tuesday after three days of bitter fighting in the streets of Kabul, a spokesman for the Afghan governing Leadership Council said here.

The cease-fire between the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat and the Ettehad-e Eslami, a Sunni radical party headed by Rasul Sayyaf, has come into effect, Ayatollah Mohammad Asif Mohseni said.

"It is a permanent peace and both sides have sworn to honor the cease-fire," Mohseni told AFP after a meeting of the Leadership Council which was also attended by leaders of the two factions.

The three days of street battles from Saturday to Monday left an estimated 70 people dead and hundreds injured.

Calm Returns

LD2107130192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpt] After three days of bloody fighting between rival groups in Kabul city, which led to the killing and wounding of a number of innocent women and children, a peace group composed of representatives of the mojahedin parties of Afghanistan was finally appointed and the situation in that city has returned to normal.

According to a Voice and Vision [Iranian radio and television organization] correspondent in Kabul, the city has been calm since yesterday afternoon as the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan led by Mr. Mazari observed the cease-fire and the Ettehad-e Eslami led by Sayyaf ceased their operations. People spent a relatively calm night. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Chairs Leadership Council Session

LD2107173892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The Leadership Council, presided over by Esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met today and discussed comprehensively the security situation and incidents in Kabul. Reporting on the session's decisions, Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council, told BIA: In today's Leadership Council session, which was attended by Engineer Ahmad Shah, deputy prime minister and acting minister of home affairs, and Esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, minister of defense, and a number of other [words indistinct], the following decisions were made unanimously.

1. The declaration of a permanent cease-fire with the consent of the engaged sides. 2. The (?appointment of) a Security Committee to supervise the cessation of fighting and to control bases of heavy weapons deployed around Kabul. 3. The revival of the security forces under special plans, drafted by the Ministries of Defense and Home Affairs. 4. The appointment of a committee by the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to help families of invalids and maimed persons and to pay compensation to people who have incurred losses.

Rabbani Meets Children, Discusses Kabul Security

LD2107192992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at Delkosha Palace [words indistinct] a number of children who have returned to their country from the former Soviet Union.

A few verses from the Holy Koran were first read out, and then esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani [words indistinct] said: It is a cause of delight for all of us, your families, relatives and friends that the Islamic revolution succeeded as a result of struggle by our courageous mojahedin, and that you—the Afghan sons—are returning after a long absence to the country and to the bosom of the beloved homeland, where you will be educated under the light of the Islamic code of practice. [words indistinct] the Ministry of Labor and Social Security as well as the Afghan Red Crescent Society have been commissioned to devise and carry out (?services) programs for you.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani then spoke about the country's situation and the efforts made by the Islamic State of Afghanistan for solving the problems and restoring a satisfactory peace. He continued: The security problems recently created in Kabul city have been solved, and a resolution was issued today at the session of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on a permanent cease-fire agreement announced today in Kabul by the belligerent parties, and on other issues relating to the further consolidation of security.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan will be making continuous efforts for a satisfactory peace and restoration of security [words indistinct].

Mojahedin Commander Declines Police Chief Post

BK2107162392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 21 (AFP)—Mojahedin commander 'Abdol Haq has declined to take up his post as Kabul police chief, officials said Tuesday.

An aide to interim president Borhanoddin Rabbani told AFP that Haq, who belongs to the Hezb-e-Eslami faction

of Yunes Khales, had written to the president Monday about his inability to do the job.

He was assigned to it when former president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi formed a cabinet in May.

Ammanullah said he was unaware of the reason for the decision taken by commander Haq, but added that a new police chief had been appointed. The appointee is General Ghulam Ghaus Nasiri, a former policeman who went to Pakistan during the mojahedin struggle to work toward the overthrow of the communist regime in Afghanistan, Ammanullah said. Khales's Hezb faction is an influential mojahedin faction and the decision by Haq was bound to create further differences in the ranks of the mojahedin parties, observers said.

India

Ongoing Temple Construction in Ayodhya Cited

BK2207095992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] At Ayodhya, the district administration of Faizabad has started fresh efforts to get the high court orders implemented. Our correspondent reports that a meeting between the administration and senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] leaders is going on now. Meanwhile, there is no letup in the construction work at the shilanyas [foundation] site in Ayodhya.

Mrs. Vijayaraje Scindia says while it is not possible to stop the ongoing construction work at Ayodhya, it can be slowed down if the kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] are convinced of the center's sincerity to find a solution. Talking to our correspondent at Parliament house today, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president said that (?some) are bitter over their experience with the V.P. Singh regime and they don't want to be carried away by mere persuasive talks.

Mrs. Scindia had been to Ayodhya at the behest of the Uttar Pradesh [UP] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, and the BJP leadership to find ways to implement the Allahabad High Court order. She said the dilemma before the UP government is how to fulfill its mandate as well as honor the court verdict. Mrs. Scindia welcomed the initiative of Swamy Vishwesh Teerath of Udipi Muth [monastery] as a sincere effort and expressed confidence that it will succeed to find some way out.

Law and Order Situation Normal

BK2207031892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Kalyan Singh has apprised the Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan of the situation in Ayodhya. In a telephonic conversation with Mr. Chavan, he said that the state government is continuing its efforts for the implementation of the court order on the ongoing activities in Ayodhya. He pointed out that the state government is maintaining constant touch with the people involved in the construction work. Mr. Kalyan Singh said that the law and order situation in the state is normal. The home office in New Delhi had denied the report that any additional central forces had been deployed in Ayodhya. It said some forces had been sent to replace the personnel already deployed there. Meanwhile, the construction work at the shilanyas [temple foundation stone] site is still going on. Efforts are again being made to persuade the (surdas) and VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] leaders to suspend the construction work. The situation in Ayodhya is peaceful. The Congress-I working committee met in New Delhi last night to discuss the Ayodhya issue. The meeting was presided over by the Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha Adjourned

BK2207080892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been adjourned till 1400 [0830 GMT] without transacting any business amid pandemonium over the Ayodhya issue. Trouble broke out as soon as the house met this morning with the National Front and Left Parties members voiciferously demanding suspension of question hour to discuss developments in Ayodhya. Several of them moved into the aisle raising slogans. Nothing could be heard in the din with the BJP [Bhratiya Janata Party] benches also protesting against the reported movement of central forces. Failing to restore order, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, adjourned the house abruptly till 1200 noon. Unruly scenes continued when the sitting resumed. The BJP members accused the center of sending forces to Ayodhya without consulting the Uttar Pradesh chief minister. They demanded a statement. Several National Front, Left Parties, and Muslim League members were on their feet raising slogans and demanding immediate central action. Some of them even moved to the well of the house. Within a couple of minutes, the house was again adjourned till 1400.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 1430 amid uproarious scenes over the Ayodhya developments. Pandemonium prevailed in the house immediately after the question hour. The non-BJP opposition members demanded immediate action by the government to stop construction work in Ayodhya. Mr. Yashawant Sinha, Janata Dal-S, alleged that the center, as reported, has decided to wait for the Supreme Court judgment on the matter which has disappointed the whole country. He also accused the home minister of becoming a prisoner of Congress Working Committee resolution and indecision. The Janata Dal member, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, charged that the Congress-I and BJP are working in collusion and the government should quit for its inaction. The BJP members on the other hand raised the issue of law and order problem in Kerala and wanted the dismissal of the state government on this account. As no response was forthcoming from Home Minister S.B. Chavan, who was

present in the house, National Front, Left Parties, and the Muslim League members moved into the well of the house shouting slogans against the government for not taking any action to implement the court order. Repeated appeals from the deputy chairperson, Dr. Najma Heptullah, to the members to return to their seats went unheeded and she adjourned the house till lunch as no business could be transacted.

Minister, Party Spokesman Comment

BK2107160992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Prominent saints in Ayodhya have agreed to have a dialogue with the government and the concerned parties on the Ayodhya [temple-mosque] issue, but will not stop construction work. The decision was taken by the saints in response to a message from the prime minister which was carried to them by Swami Vishvesh Tirth [Hindu religious leader] of Uripi. Swami Vishvesh Tirth told newsmen in Ayodhya today that the disputed structure will not be damaged at all.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent reports from Ayodhya that all efforts to get the work stopped through negotiations have not yielded any result so far. The construction work at the shilanyas [temple foundation stone] site is still continuing.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha today that the center is ready with an alternative plan in case the Uttar Pradesh government is not able to implement the Allahabad High Court order to stop the ongoing construction work at Ayodhya. He was replying to the agitated members in the house. Earlier, the non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members did not allow the question hour to proceed raising the Ayodhya developments. While, the BJP members demanded a statement from the home minister on the Malegaon incidents in Maharashtra, the non-BJP members demanded that the home minister should tell the house as to what is going in Ayodhya [sentence as heard]. There were charges and counter-charges between the BJP and others which were not heard in the din.

The Congress-I Working Committee is meeting tonight to take stock of the developments in Ayodhya. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman said efforts are on to find a solution through negotiations. Without elaborating, he said many options are being considered and hoped that a solution will be found very soon. He said the Congress-I does not favor any confrontation unless all options are exhausted. In reply to a question, the spokesman said it is a political battle the BJP wants to fight in the name of construction of the temple and it is not protecting anybody's interest. Referring to communal incidents in Trivandrum, the spokesman said it is unfortunate that two fundamentalist groups are indulging in violence.

Army Withdrawn as Normalcy Returns to Kerala

BK2207083492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] In Kerala, the Army has returned to barracks following restoration of normalcy in the riot-torn areas of Trivandrum city and its suburbs. The flag march by the Army yesterday had inspired confidence and a sense of security among the people. The police patrolling in the troubled areas will continue for some more days. This information was given by the state home minister, Mr. T.D. Padmarajan [name and title as received], in a suo moto statement in the State Assembly today.

Coordinated Action Against Punjabi Militants Urged

BK2207014092 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Jul 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Terrorism In Terai"]

[Text] Under pressure from the army and the police in Punjab, militants from that State have been moving their area of operation to the Terai belt. There can be no two opinions on the need to nip in the bud this process of terrorist linkages spreading along the sub-Himalayan region. Already the Uttar Pradesh [UP] Government and the Centre have been lax in preventing the Terai region of UP from becoming a major operational base of the Punjab militants. It is clear that in the 425 sq. km. Terai region—from Kalagad Vindhyachal to Lakhimpur Kheri, covering large parts of Nainital, Bareilly, Bijnore, Moradabad, Pilibhit and Lakhimpur Kheri districts in Uttar Pradesh—it is the writ of the terrorists that runs and not that of the local administration. The number of terrorist kilings in this region went up from 47 in 1990 to over 80 at the beginning of this year. Then came the news that the terrorists were helping build two bridges in the area using "voluntary labour", a process that the State Government has put a stop to. The inhabitants of the Terai apparently do not venture out after dark and reports suggest that some unscrupulous elements are using the cover of terrorist activities to settle long-standing feuds.

Now it seems that the Punjab militants have virtually taken over a large part of the Corbett National Park. They have joined hands with the local criminals, timber smugglers and the corrupt elements among the forest officials to spread a reign of terror in the area. They have been killing honest forest officials and terrorising others. They have ordered forest officials out of the Park in several areas and the latter have had no choice but to obey their dictats. The State Government has often complained that it lacks the funds to tackle terrorism on its own and that in any case terrorism is not a problem of the State Government alone. There is some truth in this. An ill-equipped police force cannot hope to tackle the militant-criminal nexus in this area. Both the plice force and the forest guards need to be given sophisticated arms and communication equipment. To some extent this process has already begun. Deploying reinforcements

from the Naga Police in the Terai, as the State Government has done, may help only marginally. Things have come to such a pass that the State Government must immediately seek the help of the army for combing operations in the Terai belt. But the search operation has to be complementary to a coordinated action plan between the administration of the various districts of the Terai belt. It is shocking to know that the district Magistrates of Nainital, Pauri Garhwal and Bijnore, the district adjoining the corbett Park, have not held a single meeting to coordinate their efforts to counter militant activities in the Park. This needs to be done immediately. But even more importantly, given the movement of the militants between Punjab and the adjoining States, the intelligence sharing network between Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab needs to be strengthened.

President Gives Farewell Address in Parliament

BK2107151192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has cautioned against the growing thought in favor of Rashtrapati Bhavan's [President's House] intervention in normal government functioning. In emotional farewell speech to the members of parliament in New Delhi this evening, he said the president is neither an appellate nor a supervisory authority over the duly elected prime minister. He warned that the second center of power in the parliamentary democracy will only lead to conflicts, confusion, and chaos.

Mr. Venkataraman said the president is like an emergency lamp and assumes an active role only when a prime minister resigns and is asked to continue till a democratically elected government takes over. In such a situation, the president's responsibility is to ensure that administration is carried out according to the norms alone. Observing that the country must reconcile to this position, the president called for a debate in a straightforward manner, rather than brushing the problem under the carpet. Mr. Venkataraman asserted that he has upheld the Constitution in letter and spirit during his tenure and said it is for the researchers to go through his decisions during the period 1989 to 91 which witnessed frequent changes of government and political crisis.

Rajya Sabha Passes Coal Mine Privatization Bill

BK2207095092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Rajya Sabha has passed the Coal Mines Nationalization Bill 1992 which seeks to allow private sector participation in coal mining. Replying to the brief discussion on the bill, the minister of state for coal, Mr. P.S. Sangma, said that the amendment became necessary to streamline the production of coal and to reduce the gap of 13 million tons between production and demand. During the discussion, members in general supported the bill.

Minister Denies WHO Claim of 'AIDS Holocaust'

BK2207023692 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 92 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 15—The World Health Organisation's claim that there could be an "AIDS holocaust" in India was not true, Union Health Minister M.L. Fotedar said in the Rajya Sabha today.

Answering Congress member K.K. Birla's question, Mr Fotedar said the Government would consider making mandatory for all blood banks and hospitals in the country to test for AIDS virus (HIV positive) before blood transfusion was undertaken.

During question hour, Mr Fotedar told members that, at present, there were only guidelines issued by the Centre to all State Governments in this regard and all hospitals and blood banks were expected to follow them strictly.

In Mr Fotedar's opinion blood transfusion would have greater chances of spreading AIDS "than sexual promiscuity". Two out of every thousand people stood a chance of contracting the AIDS virus through the sexual route whereas 1,000 out of every 10,000 people receiving contaminated blood through transfusion could get the AIDS virus, he pointed out.

It was not true that there could be an "AIDS holocaust" in India as claimed by the WHO and reported in a Delhi daily, the health Minister claimed.

In 1985-86, he said there was only one single case of AIDS but today the number of AIDS cases in India was 194 and 8,000 people had tested HIV positive.

At the same time, he said, the Government was seized of the situation and fully recognised the dangerous potential and that a series of steps had been taken to check the spread of the AIDS disease.

Safety of blood and blood products had been improved by strengthening and modernisation of blood banks. Out of a total of 608 blood banks, 138 had been fully equipped for observing the prescribed procedure laid down in the drugs and cosmetics rules including screening of blood for HIV infection, the Minister said.

According to him, the rules for regulating the working of blood banks and screening of every unit of blood for HIV infection had been notified in the rules framed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. The Drugs Controller of India had also instructed the manufacturers of blood products to comply with the guidelines on this regard.

To further tighten the enforcement of the guidelines Mr Fotedar said, the Government was taking steps to make the approval of the drug, controller for licensing of blood and blood products mandatory.

Iran

Baker Trip Seen As 'Exercise in Futility'

LD2207104392 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—The English press in Tehran today dubbed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East trip an exercise in futility, noting that it has nothing new to offer and looks more like an attempt by George Bush to improve his image among the Jewish electorate on the eve of the American presidential elections.

U.S., Egypt and the Zionist entity all have their own interests in the so-called Middle East talks, said 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL', noting that Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's simultaneous appearance in Cairo is actually meant to solicit Egypt's assistance in softening the Syrian and Palestinian positions at the negotiating table.

The Egyptian leadership for its part, added the daily, wanted to "score points at home and bolster its public image abroad."

But, continued the daily "analysts believe the Egyptian Government can put little pressure on Damuscus although it carries more clout with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

It referred to the existing distrust in the region on the U.S. policies as a negative point in Baker's shuttle diplomacy, and said: "The Arabs, particularly the Palestinians hold a strong belief that what the United States want to achieve is a pax Americana in the region."

The other daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' lambasted the new Israeli prime minister of wasting time saying that there is no difference betwen Rabin's Labour Party and the former Premier Yitzhak Shamir's Likud.

"A profound glance at the issue and stances adopted by these two wings clearly reflects that they have no difference on Israel's foreign policy objective which is based on expansionism. Their differences lie only in the tactics used to reach this goal."

It said "it is not clear what benefit the Egyptian leaders will derive from welcoming the Israeli prime minister other than increased separation of the government from the Muslim Egyptian masses and from their ideals and causes."

As for Baker's trip, the daily said President Bush would grant the dlrs. 10 billion in loan to the Zionist regime in order to secure the votes of Jews who comprise a powerful group in U.S. political arena.

UK Diplomat in Tehran 'Asked To Leave'

LD2107152992 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Third secretary at the British Embassy here, Geoffrey Brammer, has been asked to leave Iran within one month because of acts violating diplomatic norms.

An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry Tuesday said that Iran's relations with other countries were in conformity with the objectives of its foreign policy.

Moreover, he added, these relations were based on the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and respect for international conventions.

"We can by no means see that these principles are disturbed," the source added.

The British Government has been asked to notify its diplomats to observe the principles of diplomatic norms so that such instances would be avoided in future, he noted.

Monafeqin Said Hiding Iraqi CW From UN Teams

LD2107161392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] minigroup's extensive and all-embracing cooperation with the Iraqi regime has led to the latter recently adopting a new ploy to deceive world public opinion by making wide-scale use of the mercernery Monafeqin minigroup. The monafeqin minigroup, which collaborates extensively with the Iraqi regime in crushing the Muslims in southern and northern Iraq, is now being used for a new mission. The report states that the Iraqi regime is handing over its destructive and chemical weapons to the monafeqin when UN inspector teams are making their inspection tours, and that the mercenary elements of the minigroup load the consignments onto trucks, which they drive around the country so as to avoid the UN inspection teams.

War Dead Exchanged With Iraq at Khosravi

LD2207104592 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Bodies of 50 Iranians martyred during the 1980-88 Iraqi war were swapped with corpses of 51 Iraqi soldiers at the Khosravi border point, western Iran, Wednesday morning.

A special military ceremony was held in the presence of the local military and civilian authorities to pay homage to the Iranian martyrs.

The bodies of the martyrs will be transferred to their hometowns for funeral procession and burial.

Meanwhile, the Iranian and Iraqi authorities held talks in Khosravi on dispatch of teams to retrieve the bodies of those killed during the war, and it was agreed that the related Iraqi authorities take necessary actions in this regard.

Foreign Ministry Offers To Help Afghanistan

LD2107112392 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—Tehran is ready to employ all its potentials to settle the current problems in Afghanistan if the Kabul Government requests so, said a Foreign Ministry statement here Tuesday.

The statement further called on all involved parties in Afghanistan to exercise restraint and immediately stop all the armed clashes there.

Referring to the recent victory of the Muslim people of Afghanistan after a 14-year struggle, it stressed, "without doubt the enemies of Islam, who do not want the rule of Islam in another land, resort to every possible conspiracy to fan the flames of civil war, and unfortunately the pace of developments (in Afghanistan) is such that this dangerous ploy is about to materialize.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, being familiar with the heads of the Mojahedin groups and their insight, hopes that all leaders and groups, the head of the Afghan Islamic Government in particular, pay necessary attention to the very dangerous dimensions of the current developments which can have serious consequences for the Islamic Government in future, and should immediately put an end to the current bottlenecks by fostering understanding."

The statement reiterated that the massacre of Muslims by Muslims is "unjustifiable" and "unexcusable" at a time when global arrogance has mobilized all its potentials and power against Islam.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that stability and tranquility would soon return to Afghanistan, and that an islamic, independent and prosperous Afghanistan would be established upon the ruins left behind by the occupiers, through the help of Almighty God and the efforts of the brave and hard working people of Afghanistan," it concluded.

Daily Urges Afghan 'Revolutionary Self-Restraint'

LD2107100292 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday urged Afghan mojahedin groups to display "revolutionary self-restraint" and not to get involved in existing conflicts and clashes if they want to preserve Afghanistan's territorial integrity.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial referring to the new round of clashes started by 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami Party against the Hezb-e Wahdat-Eslami whose demands for a just share in the government in keeping with the percentage of population which it represents in multi-ethnic Afghanistan are yet to be materialized, said:

"Incoming reports, unfortunately, indicate that even the formulation of the constitution, instead of considering the national interests of Afghanistan, is coming to be based on the distribution of power among the existing groups inside the country. If it takes place, it can in itself be catastrophic."

The daily believed that the mojahedin have no way but to pave the way towards a popular and democratic vote "so that the scope and range of power of each party and society would be determined on the basis of popular support they received and not on the basis of the arms they deploy, or the violence they indulge in."

In the opinion of the daily, the clashes are "a kind of politico- military trap" for the Hezb-e-Wahdat, "aimed at turning Afghanistan into a new Lebanon in the region."

It thought that the Hezb-e-Wahdat and all its "well-wishers should display revolutionary self-restraint and should not get involved in such a horrendous and dangerous situation engineered from outside Afghanistan's borders."

Clandestine Denounces 'Interference' in Afghanistan

NC2007130592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "Interim Government of Afghanistan Protests to the Clerical Regime"]

[Text] Dear listeners: When the Najibollah government ruled Afghanistan and the Afghan mojahedin were fighting to topple him, the clerical regime interfered in Afghanistan's internal affairs in various ways. It sought to attain its objectives by using the Afghan refugees who were based in Iran. The regime planted its own agents in the mojahedin's ranks and used them or their name to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs and the affairs of the mojahedin. It thus hatched plots against everyone, including a number of people involved in the Afghanistan issue.

With the removal of Najibollah and the rise to power of the interim mojahedin government, the clerical regime has worked to ensure that its agents participate in the Afghan government so it can continue its subversive activities and intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The clerical regime has overtly stationed intelligence officials from espionage centers and foundations as well as Islamic Revolution Guards Corps personnel in various areas of Afghanistan. It continues to act as if Afghanistan were a part of Iran and under its control.

The extensive and illegal presence in Afghanistan of the clerical regime's intelligence officers and other officials has prompted dissatisfaction and disgust from the Afghan people and government officials. This is manifested in various ways.

The clerical regime sensed the Afghan people's aversion to its interventionist actions. To stem this aversion and legitimize the presence of his military and intelligence officials in Afghanistan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani attempted to convey the impression in an address to the Supreme National Security Council that the clerical regime has no intention of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Foreign Ministry, with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's approval, then appointed Mohyeddin-Najafi to be the clerical regime's plenipotentiary in Afghanistan. This irresponsible and illegal act not only failed to mitigate the Afghan people's displeasure, it further accentuated these sentiments. Along with such deceptive measures, the clerical regime began to contemplate establishing special centers and organizations in the provinces [as heard] of Mazar-e Sharif, (Lamru), and Meymaneh on the Turkmenistan border.

These illegal actions eventually forced the Afghan interim government to protest against the unwarranted interference and the irresponsible and illicit conduct of the clerical regime, and to accuse it of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The interim government openly declared that the clerical regime wanted to establish consulates in various parts of the country without oits consent. This is tantamount to intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

It does not appear that the protests of the people and interim government of Afghanistan will keep this regime from continuing its illegal and irresponsible actions. This is because the clerical regime considers itself the guardian of all Muslims and Islamic countries and believes that the governments of Islamic countries have usurped its rights. It therefore considers it an obligation to plot against them and to incite sedition in Islamic countries.

The clerical regime—in keeping with its mischievous nature—cannot perpetuate its existence without creating chaos and disruption. Hence, it is natural for it to strive to display these traits in the region, which is conducive to such activities. Thus, it is necessary to observe carefully the clerical regime's objectives, views, and performance, and preempt them in a serious and decisive manner. Otherwise, this reactionary and subversive regime will become more audacious in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and other regions.

Syria's al-Shar' Receives Velayati Message

LD1907133992 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, July 18, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

The message, stressing the need for further expansion of mutual ties, was handed over by Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Abbas Maleki.

Reviewing the situation in the region, including Lebanon with Maleki, al-Shar' said future parliamentary elections in Lebanon is "an important factor" in the restoration of stability and security into Lebanon."

Maleki, heading a delegation, arrived here last week.

German Firm To Build Power Plant on Qeshm Island

LD2007184992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] On the basis of an agreement signed recently between the Qeshm [Island] Free zone and a German firm, the latter will be building a steam power station with a strength of 1,400 megawatts on that island. The station will be built in four stages each of which will have a capacity of 350 megawatts securing the power needed by the industrial projects of that region.

Also, on the basis of another project which is in the process of being implemented, one power supply line will be transferring power from the Bandar-e 'Abbas power station to Qeshm and the prediction is that as from autumn this year the problem of power cuts in Qeshm zone will be completely removed.

According to our reporter who has recently visited the Qeshm free zone, the preliminary works of building eight earth dams aimed at purifying water used for foodstuff and industrial consumption has started . These dams will be used for reserving up to 10 million cubic meters of water and to purify part of this water for food consumption.

Indonesian Commerce Minister Arrives in Tehran

NC2007111992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Indonesian Commerce Minister Arifin Siregar arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed by Mohammad Gharazi, minister for post, telegraph and telephones and head of the joint Iranian-Indonesian economic commission.

Siregar, also the head of the joint Iranian-Indonesian economic commission in Indonesia, stated that the objective of his visit was to convey a message from the Indonesian president to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inviting him to visit, as well as to hold talks with Iranian officials on expanding bilateral relations.

Editorial: Western Countries Seek To Divide Iraq

NC1807050792 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraqi Kurdistan—A Trial Case"]

[Text] The first Kurdish government was formed in the Iraqi town of Irbil on Saturday, and Fu'ad Ma'sum, a member of the political office of the Kurdish Patriotic Union, was named as head of state by the Kurdish parliament which came into existence through general elections on 19th May. Fu'ad Ma'sum will be presenting his government's program to the parliament for vote of confidence in the coming week.

When the May elections were held in Kurdistan, and behind-the- scene architects and leaders, covering their subsequent measures under the camouflage mantle of "the elections", preferred to dole out the 105 parliamentary seats, without bothering to count the votes, to the two largest parties in Kurdistan, namely the Democratic Party and the Patriotic Kurdistan Front [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] (50 seats to each of the two parties, with the remaining 5 seats going to various Christian parties), it was not difficult to guess what new schemes some of the Western countries had prepared for Kurdistan.

The simultaneous presence of Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand—wife of the French President—in the region is a clear indication of the support of the Western countries for the division of Iraq.

With the growth of ethnic nationalism which was set in motion by the collapse of communism and resulted in the emergence of small countries in the East Europe and the Central Asia, it now seems that the world powers are planning for the similar disintegration of some of the Third World countries, and in fact Kurdistan is their first trial in the Middle East region.

Taking advantage of the chaotic situation in Iraq, the architects of the new scheme are making every effort to create the impression that a new democratic state is being born. But it should be kept in mind that, being a landlocked political entity, Kurdistan will be an easy prey to outside influence, and will soon become dependent on foreign countries.

There is very little doubt that the greatest responsibility for the disintegration of Iraq lies with the leadership in Baghdad who have provided the architects of the new Kurdistan with all the necessary pretexts. But that does not absolve the authorities in Tehran, Ankara and Damascus of their responsibilities. If the architects of the destinies of the Iraqi Kurdistan do not meet adequate and serious response in their trial case, they will be encouraged to hatch up similar plans for the Kurdish areas in other countries. Playing with the instrument of the Kurdish issues for the purpose of harassing other countries is a dangerous game that has to be stopped without delay.

Groups Discuss Confronting 'Cultural Assault'

LD2007200692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The country's representatives from cultural and publicity foundations and organizations today held a joint meeting reviewing practical ways of implementing the recent guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution on the need for a serious and comprehensive confrontation against the enemies of Islam's cultural assault by stealth [shabikhun] and putting into practice the divine [Koranic] order, the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Jannati, the secretary of the Islamic Publicity Coordination Council, said the appropriate cultural programming is to implement the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution. Referring to the need to deploy all society's cultural and publicity potentials and skills, he termed the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice as a divine value, the implementation of which should become common practice in the Islamic society and it should never be forgotten.

During the meeting, the representatives of cultural and publicity organs and foundations, members of the Islamic Publicity Coordination Council, pointed to the need for judicial and security measures against the violators [of Islamic cultural values] and those who propagate the corrupt Western culture. They stressed that the spirit and nature of the divine guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution should not be confined to such measures, but that allegiance to the genuine Islamic culture of the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice should, more than ever before, become evident in society through serious and continuous cultural effort.

Transfer of Mines to Private Sector Continues

LD2007201592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The minister of mines and metals announced that necessary provisions have been made for transferring production and mining sectors to the azadegan [literally freed ones—reference to former POWs, the disabled, other war veterans].

Having announced the above piece of news in an interview with our correspondent today, Mr Mahluji added: One of the policies of the Mines and Metals Ministry is to make provisions for these groups, to which end, three mines in the towns of Birjand, Yazd, and Shiraz have been placed at the disposal of the azadegan's cooperatives. He said: The task of transferring mines to the non-governmental, cooperative and private sectors is continuing, and the number of the mines thus far transferred [to these sectors] has increased to 1,400 active mines, most of which are in the hands of the non-governmental and private sectors.

Commerce Official on Rise in Non-Oil Exports

NC2007115892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Over the past year, our country has exported $2.6 billion worth of non-oil products, a 69 percent increase over the year 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990]. This marks the attainment of 80 percent of the government's five-year plan.

Deputy Commerce Minister Hashemi-Taba', also head of the Iranian Export Promotion Center, told correspondents that over the past year Iran has exported $700 million worth of agricultural products, more than $1 billion worth of carpets and handicrafts, nearly $400 million worth of industrial goods, and a few million [as heard] dollars worth of mineral products.

He added: In the first quarter, non-oil exports rose by an average of 8 percent over the corresponding period last year. By the end of the year, non-oil exports are expected to increase by 50 percent.

The deputy commerce minister mentioned the trade fairs the Iranian Export Promotion Center has held inside the country as well as abroad, saying: Since the beginning of the year, 24 exhibitions have been held at home and abroad, and 29 more specialized and general exhibitions are planned before the end of the year.

Khamene'i Appoints Custodian for Fatimah-e Shrine

LD1907184792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayotollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has issued an edict appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mas'udi-Khomeyni as custodian of the shrine of the holy Fatimah-e Ma'sumeh [daughter of the Prophet Mohammad], God's peace be upon her. The text of the edict of the leader of the revolution is as follows:

His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin, Mr. Mas'udi-Khomeyni, may your shadow extend. I appoint Your Excellency to the post of custodian of the sacred shrine of the holy Fatimah-e Ma'sumeh, God's mercy be upon her and her deprived and innocent ancestors, and the centers and premises affiliated with that shrine. I hope that in this honorable and lofty position you will be successful in serving that hallowed shrine, which is the strength of Islam and pivotal base of the grand seminary of Qom. It is necessary to take care of the halls, courtyards, and adjoining buildings and revenues of that shrine; to carry out the necessary renovation and construction; to serve pilgrims and the neighborhood; to publish the instructions and works of the Companions of the Prophet, God's peace be upon them; to serve the deprived and meek; and to prevent the closure or misuse of the shrine.

With many thanks to His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, Mr. Mowla'i, for his services. May God grant you success.

[Signed] Seyyed Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 19 July 1992

President on Public, Higher Education Reforms

LD1907131292 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that the government is pursuing a serious program for introducing reforms and transforming the public and higher education system in the country.

Speaking to a group of homecoming Iranian students, he said careful attention would be paid and major investment made to boost the quality and efficiency of various scientific courses.

"One of the programs in this respect is establishment of applied science universities next to the industrial townships," the president added.

He said annually more than 200,000 students are admitted in the state and open universities as well as teacher training centers now in addition to the significant numbers studying abroad. "These groups will meet technical and medical needs of the country."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. Reza Malekzadeh who was present in the meeting, expressed hope that most of the 30,000 to 40,000 Iranian students who are studying medicine abroad, would return to the country once their education is completed.

Malekzadeh said over the past three years 2,100 of the graduated Iranian students have returned to the country, of whom 1,050 hold doctorate and post-doctorate certificates, 550 are dentists, 300 are pharmaceutical doctors and 200 others are graduates in the basic medical sciences and health.

Heavy Industries Minister on Privatization Goals

LD1907221292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Heavy Industries Minister Nezhad-Hoseyniyan announced in Rasht today that policy setting and central control have been removed from heavy industries and that the government plans to turn the task of production over to the people. Here is a report from a Central News Unit correspondent in Rasht:

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, who is visiting Gilan Province to inaugurate an escalator production line, explained government policies on industry, saying: In the past two or three years the number of requests for investment in the country's heavy

industries has grown; the level of investment during this time cannot be compared to previous years at all. For example, last year we allocated $630 million in foreign exchange to various industrial units by way of investment in the country's heavy industries; the level of investment by the people themselves was even greater than this figure, representing a six-fold increase over previous years.

The minister of heavy industries said the following in connection with encouraging people to invest in the industrial sector: The government's main aim is for investment and—as much as possible—production to be carried out by the people and for even existing factories to be turned over to the people. For example, Iran's shock absorber factory can produce 500,000 shock absorbers per year for trucks, buses, minibuses, and motorcycles and its products have been tested on the market. If anyone wishes to purchase the factory, it will be turned over to them as it stands. Otherwise, the ministry of heavy industries will provide all the required equipment and manpower, bring the factory on line officially, and then transfer the factory's shares to the people via the stock exchange.

He added: With the implementation of recent policies in the country's heavy industries, factories are acting directly in the production and sale of their industrial products. For example, the direct transfer of cars to people has brought about a 40- to 50-percent drop in market prices for cars.

Work Continues at Arak Refinery

LD1907215592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The work to establish vast oil depots at the seventh refinery, in Arak, with a storage capacity of 7 million barrels of crude oil and oil products, has been completed.

[Unidentified correspondent] The director of the construction plan for Refinery 7 in Arak, announcing the above, said: So far 71 percent of the construction work on the seventh refinery in Arak, with the expenditure of $781 million in foreign exchange and 16.33 billion rials in domestic currency, has been completed. The seventh refinery in Arak, with a daily production capacity of 150,000 barrels of oil products, will be commissioned next spring.

In this refinery, which is the first in the country to be equipped with computers, closed-circuit systems for controlling production, and a continuous reduction system [vahed-e ehya-ye mostamar], daily produces 11,000 barrels of high-octane unleaded petroleum which will be available for sale. In addition to producing unleaded petroleum, the seventh refinery in Arak will be able to produce on a daily basis more than 26,900 barrels of kerosene, 46,500 barrels of gas-oil, 25,000 barrels of gasoline, 11,000 barrels of ordinary petroleum, 6,700 barrels of liquid gas, 5,500 barrels of tar, 461 tonnes of gas, 56 tonnes of sulfur, light and heavy jet fuel as needed, 8,800 barrels of (?plateformite), and 6,600 barrels of light nafta for use at the Arak petrochemical complex.

It should be added that at the moment there are 7,000 people employed in the seventh refinery in Arak, which is situated on a 6- square-km site 23 km west of the city in the suburbs of Sareband town. When it starts production, the country will earn $1 million in income each day. Central News Unit, Arak.

New Governor General for Kermanshahan Province

LD1707221892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a session of the Administrative Council of Kermanshahan Province, Interior Minister Nuri introduced Mr. Gholamreza Sahrayan as the new governor general. The former governor general of the said province was thanked for his services.

Commentary on Need To Dispel Rumors of Cabinet Shuffle

NC1907162492 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 7 Jul 92 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Haqqu: "The Government and Rumors of a Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[Text] Rumors of possible cabinet changes or changes in portfolio are making the rounds in political circles. Of course, this is a natural phenomenon and conforms with the need for occasional changes or replacements so that the wheels of government continue to turn. Some points merit attention, however.

If such discussions, whether official or unofficial, continue for an extended period, they generate false rumors, operational stagnation, and a lull in the normal routine regarding national issues. This can be averted in two ways: If such speculation is true, practical measures should be taken; if it is not, the government spokesman or some other official should issue a denial and clarify the true state of affairs.

Because there is talk of a cabinet reshuffle in official circles, including the Majles, we can surmise that there is at least some truth to the reports being circulated and some change in the executive cadre of the government is being planned.

Under the constitutional amendments and the addendum to the Constitution approved by the Majles, the government can legally continue to function and does not require another vote of confidence. Cabinet changes can take place in three ways: First, if the president feels that he needs to replace one of his ministers; second is the legislative procedure, under

which Majles deputies can question a minister and hold a vote of confidence on him; and third, if a minister resigns.

With the exception of the Islamic guidance minister, no resignations have been submitted, at least not publicly. As far as we know, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not intend to shuffle the cabinet. Nevertheless, rumors are rife in various circles. Some members of the Islamic Majles recently asked the president to take the necessary steps to strengthen the cabinet. This can be interpreted as a call to replace some of the cabinet members.

This is not an overly unpleasant situation. A Majles deputy is legally authorized in his capacity of a representative of the people to say what he thinks is in the interests of the people and the country; no one can prevent him from carrying out his legitimate obligation. In order to protect the people's interests and freedom, we should legally strengthen the role of Majles deputies.

It is important that we do not create conditions, through our random utterances, that put pressure on the president or the government to make changes according to the wishes of a deputy. If the president wishes to replace a minister, he has the legal right to do so. Without a doubt, if Hashemi-Rafsanjani considers it necessary to replace a colleague in the interest of the administration, he will do so and will ask the Majles for a vote of confidence on the new candidate. If he has not done this, there must be a valid reason and he should not be subjected to psychological pressure in his decisionmaking. If, however, the Majles deputies have a different view, they should follow legal procedures rather than creating an atmosphere of psychological pressure through loose talk. They can make their views known through questioning. If their views match those of the majority of deputies, they will achieve the desired results.

Present conditions are far from pleasant. First of all, there should be no pressure on the government or the president because this is not in line with our motto of supporting the government. Having legitimate rights is a correct and acceptable concept, but should only be exerted through legal channels. Another reason is that psychological pressure for a cabinet change only creates rumors and problems that are not in line with society's present conditions.

The other issue is that Hashemi-Rafsanjani must forge ahead as soon as possible, and such controversies naturally result in operations becoming bogged down. Obviously, fostering doubts in the ministers hampers the functioning of their ministries. It is possible that the essential daily routine may not be affected, but the department's morale is certainly harmed. A conspicuous example of this can be seen the country's financial issues. A controversy has been raging for quite some time about the official foreign exchange rate or about a change in the parity rate. Because of this, banks are reluctant to extend the usual facilities for housing purposes. These rumors and arguments have slowed operations to the extent that the fate of commercial operations and production has been inextricably linked to the foreign exchange market.

If an overt and responsible stance is not adopted to dispel these rumors, disarray will proliferate in our country's economic sector. The absence of any clarification to the media by the official government spokesman in the year 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] has contributed to the ambiguity. The laudable tradition that was initiated last year, when the first vice president began explaining the government's policies and stances as its spokesman at regular news conferences, has kept the people informed of the government's policy on various issues. A continuation of this commendable tradition, in a manner acceptable to the government and the president, might dispel the current ambiguity.

* Rumors of Announcement of New Ministers

92AS1205F London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] This week in Tehran the rumor of the appointment of Kamal Kharrazi, the Islamic UN ambassador, as the foreign minister and the transfer of the present foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to the Ministry of Islamic Guidance to replace Mohammad Khatami has become very strong. Velayati has been active in the position of foreign minister of the regime for 10 years and Kharrazi, too, last year replaced Raja'i-Khorasani, the former Tehran ambassador in New York.

* Allegedly Secret Information Passed Abroad

92AS1239E London KEYHAN in Persian
9 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] ABRAR newspaper writes in its issue on 9 Tir [30 Jun] that the "Hypocrites" (a name used for the People's Mojahedin) received news from Iran via telephone and then placed it at the disposal of Turkish and Iraqi intelligence agencies. ABRAR quotes a person by the name of Kazem Soleymani, a former member of the mojahedin organization, who is now serving the Islamic Republic. From the statements of ABRAR, one can gather that the higher officials of the Islamic regime provided members of the People's Mojahedin organization with secret information because, it writes that the passing of information by telephone to the People's Mojahedin "indicates the simplemindedness of some of the officials of the country with regard to protecting information and makes the necessity to review this trend unavoidable."

* Rohani Head of Foreign Affairs Committee

92AS1205O London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] After the hot rivalry that occurred over the chairmanship of the foreign policy committee of the Majles, finally, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani won over Mohammad Javad Ardeshir Larijani and was elected chairman of that committee. The other members of the

foreign policy committee are Mehdi Mehdi-Zadeh, Hoseyn Sobhaninya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Naderi, Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i, Gholam 'Abbas Za'eri, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Farajollah Afrazideh, Seyyed Jalal Sadatiyan, Qasem Sho'leh-Sa'di, and 'Alireza Sadra.

* Relations With Egypt To Be Normalized

92AS1205L London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] After a lengthy secret activity behind closed doors on the part of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Alla'oddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, finally implicitly announced that normal diplomatic relations will soon resume between Egypt and the Islamic Republic. In a seminar on foreign policy issues, which was held by the Qom Seminary in that city, he said: Considering that Egypt is close to Iran culturally and ideologically, relations between the two countries must be friendly.

In his statements, which were clearly a full retreat from the previous positions of the Islamic Republic, Borujerdi said: "It must be acknowledged that Arab countries have recognized Israel." He added that he opposes an embargo on countries that have relations with Israel.

Borujerdi also said: "Iran does not intend to remain in international isolation. It intends to develop its relations with all countries, with the exception of the United States, Israel, and South Africa."

The deputy foreign minister of the regime tried to ascribe the failure of the Islamic Republic to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan over "Balagarabash" as factors beyond the control of Tehran rather than any lack of Iranian diplomatic credibility in the region. Nevertheless, he confessed: "We are incapable of stopping regional conflicts such as those that are going on in Caucasia."

Because some time ago, relations between Cairo and Tehran were resumed on an unofficial basis, and both sides have opened interest section offices in each other's capitals. Also, in addition to the open visit of some of the low-ranking delegations of both countries to each other's capitals, the political and diplomatic officials of the Islamic Republic and Egypt have also participated in secret trips. Up to some time ago, every time that the issue of relations with Egypt was raised, the left wing of the government would make a ruckus and term the reestablishment of relations contrary to the directives of Khomeyni. But now it is to be expected that the open phases of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic will begin.

Using the signing of the Camp David accords with Israel as a pretext, Khomeyni ordered the severance of relations with Egypt.

* Foundation Turned Into Investment Body

92AS1205G London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] "The Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers has turned into a large investment company which, with the vast capital and resources that it has at its disposal, purchases expensive luxury items at wholesale prices and sells them to the people at the daily prices in order to accumulate more wealth. This is not what the Imam wanted, because this action in itself contributes to increasing prices and inflation."

The above statement was made some time ago by Mohammad Baqer Mahdavi-Kermani, the Majles deputy, to other deputies. Speaking at one of the preliminary sessions of the new Majles, he strongly criticized the policies of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the area of fighting corruption, and also the economic programs of the regime, and said: "If the Foundation for the Oppressed breaks the prices and inflation and, to lower prices, with all the resources at its disposal, purchases certain items and necessities wholesale and sells them at the same price to the poor people in the society, there will be no inflation and high prices. The above-mentioned official added: "I think there are several other large foundations that also have a great deal of resources and have been established for this purpose."

The deputy from Kerman to the Majles continued his pre-agenda speech and said: "If foundations want to help the national economy and prevent inflation and high prices, they must give up doing business and accumulating wealth and think about helping the oppressed." Requesting that the Majles investigate the situation of all foundations, he referred to the issue of the spread of corruption among the operators, government officials, and those organizations affiliated with the regime and said: "The law on auditing the property of government officials before and at the end of their terms must be implemented, and the property of the deputies must also be audited." He added: "Why should this law that has been filed away not be implemented? Why should the disruption of the treasury not be put on trial, while only petty thieves are put on trial? The Majles deputy, raising the question of why the law in question is not implemented, said: "If a government official who is known for being financially corrupt is put on trial in the government of the Islamic Republic, not only will the revolution not be questioned, but the revolution will also find a place for itself, and others will figure out that they should not misuse the treasury."

* Farsi Publication in Dushanbe Calls For Unity

92AS1205B London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] The first publication of MEHR, which calls itself the loudspeaker of the "Great National Aryan Organization," was published in Khordad 1371 [22 May-21 Jun

1992] in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. This publication, which is published in two languages, Persian script and language and Cyrillic script and Russian language, called for unity among the countries of Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, saying that even though they have specified borders, their people should be able to come and go between them without any obstacles.

"Eradeh Mehr," the head of the organization, in an article, entitled "At the Threshold of Ideal," calls the separation of nations with a common history and culture a "heart" that has been "torn to four pieces."

This publication also contains articles, entitled "Let Us Find Once Again the Time of Rejoining" and "We Are Links in the Same Chain," which discuss the cultural and historical unity of the three countries of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

There is also a poem by "Gol Rokhsar," the well-known Tajik poetess, in this publication that reflects sorrow for the "homeland."

It is interesting to note that the operators of the abovementioned organization have had regular contact with the Iranian Nation's Party, under the leadership of Daryush Foruhar, and Foruhar was their guest in Tajikistan for a few days.

"Eradeh Mehr" hopes that "at the beginning of the 21st century" a new country called "Greater Iran" will appear on the world map.

Pakistan

Khan Meets Turkish Official, Urges Cooperation

BK2107151592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Mr. (Ozdan Sanbarg), undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and discussed with him matters relating to regional cooperation within the expanded framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO. The president emphasized that recent changes in international relations, particularly those around the ECO countries, have opened up new avenues of wider and closer cooperation in the region. In this connection, the president underscored the need to formulate joint responses to the challenges ahead which could be effectively met only through closer cooperation and collaborative action. Mr. (Sanbarg) indicated that his government share this perception and is keen to work toward this end.

PRC Group Meets Khan; Radio-TV Accord Signed

BK2107143592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has called upon third world countries to forge closer cooperation in the field of information with a view to projecting their problems and points of view more effectively and without the kind of distortion to which they are normally subjected by media of developed countries. The president was talking to the Chinese vice minister for radio, television and films, Mr. Wang Feng, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said the policies and the problems of the developing world were neither properly appreciated nor objectively presented by Western media, either because of lack of understanding or under the influence of special interests. Faced with this situation, Third World countries have to cooperate with each other to project their image according to their own perception. In this connection, the president welcomed the agreement for further cooperation in the field of information signed between Pakistan and China today.

Mr. Wang Feng assured the president of his government's abiding commitment to promotion of bilateral relations which, he said, were beneficial not only to the two countries, but also to the entire region.

Pakistan and China have agreed to promote cooperation in the spheres of radio and television. The agreement was signed by the Chinese vice minister for radio, television, and film, Mr. Wang Feng, and the secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Haji Mohammad Akram, in Islamabad today. The agreement envisages quarterly exchanges of television and radio programs and films. No payment whatsoever shall be required of either party for the programs exchanged between and used by the two countries.

Transportation Pact With Afghanistan Viewed

BK2107152092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to exchange technical and construction experts for rehabilitation, widening, and reconstruction of major road networks of Afghanistan. The agreement came at a meeting between the minister for communications and adviser to Afghan president, Dr. (Faqir Mohammad Nakjan), and the chairman of the National Highway Authority in Islamabad today. Islamabad earnestly desires to open up trade links through road with Afghanistan and the Central Asian Muslim states. The leader of the Afghan delegation lauded the efforts of Pakistan for providing support during their 14-year-long struggle.

A technical delegation from Pakistan will soon visit Afghanistan to study the status of gas resources and prepare preliminary reports on the exploration of these resources for oil and gas companies within Afghanistan as well as their possibilities of export.

President, Premier Congratulate Indian President

BK1807150492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has expressed the hope that Pakistan and India will resolve

all their differences through peaceful means. In a message of felicitation to the newly-elected president of India, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the president hoped that both Pakistan and India would evolve cooperative and good neighborly relations on the basis of universally accepted commitment and principle.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has also sent a message of felicitation to the newly-elected president of India. In his message, the prime minister assured him of Pakistan's earnest desire to establish tension-free and cooperative relations with India on the basis of the UN Charter and in the spirit of the Simla agreement.

Resignations From Assembly Called 'Irrevocable'

BK2107114192 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] Quetta, July 20—The Tehrik-i-Istiqlal chief and a PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leader, Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan, has said that the PDA high command's decision on resignations of PDA representatives from parliament and provincial assemblies is final and irrevocable. He said that a definite date on their resignations would soon be known to the nation.

Speaking at a press conference here on Monday evening, he said the delay in announcing a definite date was owing to the fact that the PDA legislators would resign en bloc, convincing the Speakers of the national and provincial assemblies that these were final and for prompt acceptance. They would not let it happen like the MQM [Mahajir Qaumi Movement] representatives' resignations from the NA [National Assembly] and Sindh PA [Provincial Assembly].

We would not allow Speakers either of the National Assembly or of provincial assemblies to resort to dilly dally tactics as in the case of MQM legislators' resignations.

He said once the PDA representatives resigned from the parliament and provincial assemblies, none of the PDA components would participate in bye-election. Moreover, the idea for the PDA resignation en bloc was to create conditions conducive to fresh general election by an interim and impartial machinery.

Pending polls there must be an interim and impartial government. Representatives in this government would be required to give an undertaking for not participating in polls ensuring free and fair polls.

Asked whether he agreed with the demand for a national government, Asghar Khan replied in negative. He maintained that national government meant "our association with the present incompetent government. Our association with such a government will tarnish our political image," he said.

He declared that the PDA stood for proportional representation in the context of future polls. He said the PDA wanted replacement of the present Chief Election Commission [CEC] so that free and fair polls could be held. He said only such CEC should be appointed who and could ensure free and fair polls.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was elected by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and some other components of PDA then why the PDA was demanding his replacement, Asghar Khan said definitely the President was elected by them but his present role in the context of Sindh situation had convinced them for the change.

Asked about the deployment of army in Sindh, he said situation had reached such a point where it had to be called for the restoration of peace and order. He, however, said that deployment of the army spoke of the incapability of the government to solve people's problems democratically and politically.

He maintained that deployment of army always created complications.

Asked to comment on PPP co-chairman Benazir Bhutto's observation that her resignation from the parliament would lead to collapse of the present set up, Asghar Khan said that her version was weighty.

Mr Asghar Khan disclosed that the PDA could launch countrywide demonstrations from July 30 in Karachi and Quetta followed by similar demonstrations at Saido Sharif on Aug 6 and at Lahore on Aug 10.

New Ordinance on Armed Forces Discussed

BK2107101792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Jul 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Need for Caution"]

[Text] An ordinance promulgated on Sunday marks an effort by the civilian authorities to meet the Army's longstanding insistence on adequate legal powers to enable it to effectively implement operation clean up in Sindh. Titled the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1992, this amends and extends Section 131 of the Code. It provides officers of the armed forces powers of search, arrest, and seizure of offensive weapons, which are available to the police under chapter five of the Code. Military authorities are believed to have also asked for powers of interrogation. Although these are not among those provided in the new Ordinance, the military should be quite content with what they have obtained. The Ordinance also gives legal immunity to military officers carrying out their duties. In response to the military's requirement the ordinance has retrospective effect from 28 May, to accord with the date of the Prime Minister's directive.

Armed with these powers, the Army should be able to press on with making its clean up operation in Sindh more effective. Hopefully, this should also mean that a source of discord between the military and the civilian

authorities is now removed, since recent weeks had seen disagreements over the issue of powers.

Powers, however, are only one aspect of making the Sindh operation effective. So far the coordination and consensus that was expected among the federal government/provincial authorities and the military has not been very evident. Harmony must now be created so that the purposes of the operation, announced by the government itself, are not defeated. It is unfortunate that an operation which initially seemed to enjoy widespread consensus at the top, and continues to have the backing of people wishing to see an end to Sindh's desperate lawlessness, should have become mired in confusion and controversy, some of it emanating from the government's own ranks.

If the operation is to succeed, clarity of objective and modus operandi is vital. There should be no ambivalence or bickering on this score. The Army authorities themselves ought to proceed with caution and circumspection. The new powers available to them should not translate into a gung ho attitude in the province. Nor should early successes in the interior lead to Tarzan calls. It is early days yet. Meanwhile the tense situation in urban Sindh in the wake of the MQM's split needs to be addressed effectively, but thoughtfully and with sensitivity.

Increased Army Powers in Sindh Operation Viewed

BK2107130992 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jul 92 p 11

[Editorial: "More Powers for the Army"]

[Text] The promulgation of the presidential ordinance giving the army search and arrest powers when it is called in aid of civil authority should take care of the army's complaint, sounded off and on since the end of May, that it was facing "impediments" in the conduct of its ongoing operation in Sindh. No more should the army be able to complain, through muttered briefings to the press, that in the fight to curb crime and lawlessness its hands are tied. It should now be able to make the arrests that it wants and to carry out the searches it considers necesary for the seizure of illegal arms. This should remove one powerful source of friction between the army and the civilian authorities, hopefully putting an end to the conflicting signals frequently emanating from Islamabad.

Are dramatic arrests going to take place very soon? Is a hand going to be laid on those influential political figures in the interior who are suspected of having underworld connections? Is the operation in Karachi going to be speeded up? It is too early to answer these questions although it would be not a little curious if after the enactment of this ordinance the pace of the operation in Sindh remains unchanged. The army has no excuse for any failures now. If things move slowly and not according to its liking, it cannot vent its frustration by speaking of "impediments" in its path. Those impediments have been removed unless there remain some of whose existence we are not aware.

The mere accretion of power, however, means nothing. If power is not to degenerate into injustice and excesses, it must be exercised judiciously. The wider the extent of the army's policing powers the greater becomes its responsiblity to guard against arbitrariness. Dacoits, kidnappers, highwaymen, and terrorists (whether of the urban or the rural variety) should feel the full weight of the army's punitive capablities. That after all is the whole purpose of the present operation. But there should be no willfulness in the conduct of this operation: no arbitrary arrests and no third-degree methods of interrogation. Tando Bahawal was an object lesson in the perils of unchecked license. There must be no repetition of that or of those incidents during which suspects mysteriously died while they were in army custody.

A disquieting feature of the new ordinance is the immunity from prosecution that it grants to troops engaged in operations such as the present one in Sindh. Does this mean that even if arbitrary acts are committed and violations of human rights take place, it will not be possible to seek their redressal in a court of law except with the permission of the federal government? A frightening possibility which makes it all the more essential for the army to exercise the new powers given to it with the utmost caution and with a clear sense of answerability. In passing, another somewhat curious aspect of this ordinance may also be mentioned. It has been made effective from May 28 when the operation in Sindh started. In the absence of any other explanation, the belief will be encouraged that this has been done to cover with immunity some of the excesses (like the deaths of suspects in custody) committed in the interior. If this is the purpose behind this retrospective exercise, it is not something that is likely to win any widespread approval.

Domestic Oil Production Declines

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[By M.I. Lashkar]

[Text] Islamabad—Domestic oil production declined by about five per cent from 65,599 barrels per day during the first nine months of 1990-91 to 62,500 barrels per day during the same period in 1991-92, dashing to the ground the hope that Pakistan is inching towards self-sufficiency in oil production.

According to official figures available here, domestic oil production went up to the last year's nine months' figure of 65,599 barrels per day from the figure of 53,481 barrels per day during the previous year of 1989-90, showing a rise of 20 per cent.

The reduction in domestic oil production which went up to about thirty per cent of Pakistan's total oil requirements, happened in spite of the fact that the number of oil fields increased from 29 in March 1991 to 34 in March 1992.

Official explanation for the reduction of domestic oil production is that it was due to constraints in the refineries located in the southern region of the country and problems faced by the authorities in exporting the crude.

Observers believe that it was due to law and order situation in Sindh that the two refineries located in Karachi could not work to their full capacity and hence the processing of oil was reduced.

As regards exports, it may be mentioned that since the increase recorded in the extraction of crude oil in newer oilfields during the last two or three years, Pakistan started to export excess crude oil which could not be processed in Pakistan because of the limited refining capacity within the country. Exports were usually being made to Singapore. It appears that in 1991-92, export orders could not be obtained, perhaps because of the steep fall in oil prices in the international markets.

As a result of the decreased domestic oil production in 1991-92, Pakistan had to increase its oil import in the year. But it did not have any significant financial impact in view of the fact that international prices of crude decreased, in rupee [Rs] term, from Rs 3614 per metric ton in 1990-91 to Rs 3271 per metric ton in 1991-92, while the price of petroleum products came down from Rs 5960 to Rs 4067 during the period.

It may be mentioned that local crude oil extraction in Pakistan was to the tune of 16,745,000 barrels in the nine months of 1991-92, whle crude oil imports totalled 22,254,000 barrels during the period.

Meanwhile oil exploration works continued in the year almost according to schedule. In all, 66 new oil wells were drilled in 1991-92, 40 by OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] and 26 by foreign and private sector.

By March 31, 1992, recoverable reserves of crude oil in Pakistan were estimated at 145.69 million barrels.

Oil contributes more than 40 per cent of total energy supply in Pakistan.